



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR L. SCOTT FRANTZ
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

TOLL FREE: 800-842-1421
OFFICE: 860-240-8800
FAX: 860-240-8306
E-mail: Scott.Frantz@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony
Sen. Frantz in support of HB 5305
Environment Committee Public Hearing
March 7, 2012

Good Morning Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, Senator Roraback, and Representative Chapin. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning in favor of **HB 5305, An Act Concerning Prohibiting the Use of Bamboo Stakes to Mark Shellfish Grounds**.

Currently along our shores, buoyed bamboo stakes are used to identify the borders of commercial shellfish beds in the Long Island Sound. The Greenwich Shellfish Commission brought to my attention the hazards that this antiquated marking system poses to the boating community. Many shellfishing craft operators now use GPS/chart plotter combinations to identify shellfish beds and consider the use of bamboo stakes to be outdated and unnecessary. Many boaters consider buoyed stakes to be a hazard, especially at night when they cannot be seen and if they are broken leaving a very sharp spear-like point, oftentimes just below the surface of the water. .

HB 5305 eliminates the usage of bamboo staking for shellfish beds, providing safer waters for everyone. This is a simple change in our statutes, especially since there already are other affordable means to identify shellfish beds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

L. Scott Frantz
State Senator, 36th district