

Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, Members of the Environment Committee, for the record my name is Paula Pellerin and I am the co-owner of Hammonasset RV & Camp Center located in the town of Westbrook. I am here to testify regarding SB 85, AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS AT CERTAIN STATE PARKS.

Our business sells RV parts & accessories and camping equipment, and we provide RV service and storage. As with many small businesses on our area, our existence and success is attached to the seasonal flow of traffic in our respective communities and the impact the 21 day limit enforcement will have may be devastating to what are already fragile business existences. Connecticut may open for business but every time I look, the sign above that door reads "EXIT ONLY". We need your help today.

We provide hauling for several of our storage customers who religiously camp at Hammonasset year after year. By enforcing the 21 day limit, not only does the State risk losing these shoreline campers and their camping fees to a neighboring state, we and other area businesses will lose all of the associated revenues from those same campers. How much hauling, service, and product revenue will our business lose each year? And if our storage customers decide that it is no longer cost effective to own and maintain a camper for only 3 weeks per year, how big of an impact will that have on our bottom line? This is a risk we can't afford for you to take.

It's not the weekend campers who are out spending money in our communities. They come packed for 2 or 3 days and then they leave. It's the 2 to 3 week, repeat campers who need groceries, eat out 4 or 5 times a week, use the laundry facilities, enjoy some night life, and for our business, need RV supplies and repairs. During the weekdays, it's the repeat campers who sustain us.

The language in SB 85 is at best, insufficient to counteract the problems the 21 day law will impose. The long-time practice of 21 days in, 5 days out has served these parks well for many years and can continue to do so, if the state is willing to address the issues of those "new long-term campers" that have been allowed to crop up. I don't believe that penalizing all for the actions of some is the best manner in which to address this issue. Instead of changing the practice, require Reserve America to come up with safeguards against fraudulent reservations and tell the park staff to stop turning a blind eye and start enforcing the rules that have been in place for years

But regardless of what you decide, my question to you is how you intend to enforce these changes? If you can't answer that and if it can't be applied uniformly, then this entire process has been an exercise in futility.

Lastly, I would like to add that I have been a faithful camper at Hammonasset for the last 46 years and I am one of the many who have honored the stay limits.

Thank you.