

Hopefully you can pass my comments along. I am unable to attend the General Assembly Meeting. Thank you.

I am a third generation camper at Hammonasset State Park and I've been camping at Hammonasset State Park for the past 55 years. I find it unconscionable that the State of Connecticut would turn away revenue from people who are willing to pay 11 months in advance to camp at our only 2 state parks on the ocean, and who would prefer to camp more than 21 days per season. As a Connecticut taxpayer I should have the option to camp at our state parks when I want and it should not be mandated that I'm only allowed 21 days per season. During the camping season at Hammonasset State Park, I and fellow campers frequent restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, hardware stores, retail outlets, RV camping centers, libraries, churches, and laundry facilities, etc. Our purchases help local businesses prosper and add revenue to the tax base.

I have repeatedly observed over the summer months many vacant camp sites, which are not utilized therefore a loss in revenue. Its the repeat 21day campers who support the park rain or shine. It is therefore guaranteed revenue for the State of Connecticut. It would be a shame to turn Connecticut residents away because of the 21 day rule and force families to camp at our neighboring states, losing the camping dollars and supporting their state economy not to mention the park employees that are effected by the lose of campers. Our state has very little public beach access compared to the private beaches and we should be able to enjoy them when time allows.

Thank you,
Laurie Biddle