

TESTIMONY to co-Chairs Senator Eric Coleman, Representative Gerald Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee, March 28, 2012

My name is Sidney F. Van Zandt of 3 Front St., Groton, CT.

I urge you to oppose S.B. 445 that provides for moving protection from Boardwalks, public beaches, and paved sidewalks under 52-557f-1 to 52-557n. This will cost towns big money as municipalities will be forced to incur expenses associated with settling or defending personal injury law suits.

The protection put into effect in 1971 (C.G.S.—52-557 f-1) protected land owners from personal injury lawsuits. In 2011, this Statute was amended (PL. 11-211) to include protection against liability for municipalities on recreational lands. I spoke before you last year urging that these amendments be passed.

This year I urge you **to oppose the bill SB 445** as public policy should be geared towards encouraging not discouraging recreational use of these assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my concerns.

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