

**Statement in Support of Raised Bill No. 343**

Elizabeth C. Barton, Day Pitney LLP

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My name is Elizabeth C. Barton and I am a partner with the law firm of Day Pitney LLP, resident in the firm's Hartford office. Over the years, we have represented many developers, owners, lenders and municipalities in connection with proposed development projects in Connecticut. I have been practicing environmental law in Connecticut for over 30 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to be a part of initiatives involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders, a number of these initiatives having a focus on Connecticut's environmental regulatory schemes relating to environmental permitting. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to be a member of Governor Malloy's transition team on environmental matters.

I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 343, which proposes revisions to Section 22a-19 of the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. Drawing on decades of experience since the passage of Section 22a-19, this bill seeks to better define the timeliness of, and the requirements for, intervention in permitting proceedings to raise environmental concerns about a proposed activity. Importantly, it does not diminish the opportunity to either raise legitimate environmental concerns or participate in permitting proceedings to pursue such issues. These rights are expressly retained.

With the revisions proposed by Raised Bill No. 343, those with environmental concerns about a project are required to define their issues and provide evidence in support of same so these concerns are fully considered as part of the permitting process and without having the effect of delaying the permitting process. This is consistent with the requirements of the other participants in a permitting process.

Raised Bill No. 343 is intended to address current misuse of Section 22a-19, misuse seen particularly at the local permitting level, where even without intervention local permitting authorities are already required to and do consider relevant environmental concerns associated with a proposed project. I urge the Committee's support of Section 22a-19, which provides for reform that is long overdue.