

Lee Treadway
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March 7, 2012

Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing
March 9, 2012

Re: Raised Bill No. 343, An Act Concerning Intervention in Permit Proceedings Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act of 1971

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Raised Bill No. 343, *An Act Concerning Intervention in Permit Proceedings Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act of 1971*.

My name is Lee Treadway, I am a resident of Groton and a former resident of Ledyard. I am a certified zoning officer through CAZEO and a certified wetlands commissioner through the former DEP, now DEEP. Prior to serving as a land-use administrator and enforcement agent, I worked for over 20 years in various construction businesses. While serving in Ledyard for 11 years, I staffed the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and the Zoning Commission from 1994 to 2005 while wrestling with the challenges of dealing with tribal sovereignty matters as they collided with municipal governance and jurisdiction.

Please allow me to add my comments in support of SB 343 as a professional with 36 years of combined experience while trying to balance the need for economic development with the compelling need to protect our overall environment. It is vitally important that governments accept the responsibility to "level the playing field" to the extent possible, by amending legislation that creates obstacles toward achieving that goal. I too have had experience with the use of 22a-19, and fully support the observations and recommendations proposed.

From an overall "sustainability" perspective, the "environment, community, and economics" are the three major components (sometimes referred to as the "three overlapping rings") of a logical plan which strives to balance competing interests. Quite simply, it is not realistic to stop all development based on an ASSERTION of possible pollution. Environmental regulations have evolved dramatically since 22a-19 was implemented, and I have personally witnessed how well the permitting process works when opposing groups reach reasonable compromises. Even without 22a-19, there are many appeal mechanisms which should be allowed to run their course. Unfortunately, 22a-19 as it exists, usurps the entire legitimate process of local governance, which also wastes considerable money and expertise.

As I become more of a conservationist on a personal level, I see the need to amend this antiquated law from that perspective, as well. Environmental advocates cannot purchase all lands that they desire to protect, so they must work in partnership with developers to design environmentally friendly projects which also set aside sensitive areas for preservation and protection. The proposed amendments will allow 40 years of legislation and experience to further protect environmental resources, while allowing people to provide jobs and to build their dreams.

Please take this opportunity to fine tune 22a-19 to restore some fundamental fairness to the development process. My experience with the legal process reveals that "specificity" and full disclosure are key elements of logical decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Treadway