

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Raised Bill No. 388 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines**

Chairmen Maynard, Guererra, and distinguished members:

The membership of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association urges you to not support **Raised Bill No. 388 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines**. Bills are written to solve a problem but nothing needs to be solved here. R.B. 388 is unnecessary and unwarranted. It would impose a significant financial burden on the industry's manufacturers and dealers and would provide many opportunities for misuse by an unreasonable consumer.

All new vessels and marine products sold in Connecticut come with warranties and operating certificates for their proper use. As manufacturing techniques have improved, the warranties and guarantees have improved and truly meet the needs and desires of the consumers. A "lemon law" for boats is unnecessary and unworkable for a number of reasons. In our state it is unwarranted, the complaints received about the operation and performance of new boats over the past ten years are minimal. CMTA has worked with the only two that come to mind and with the renewed dedication toward quality that the industry had a number of years ago, the vessel owners were satisfied that their issues were corrected and signed off on that fact.

Boats and automobiles are quite different. An auto is manufactured by one entity that is responsible for the construction, quality control, and the warranty on every part and component. A vessel is comprised of many different construction parts from many different manufacturers. Hull, engines, controls, appliances, fixtures, canvas, all come from different sources and carry different warranties. The history in Connecticut of the marine manufacturers standing behind their products is very good. A lemon law is unwarranted primarily because a boat is not autonomous like an automobile. Nor does it have the required importance to the public, that it should be covered. All the boats sold in Connecticut have not generated enough complaints to warrant this initiative.

Connecticut has almost 500 businesses involved in recreational boating. If we receive any complaints about a product sold in our state, we work with the owner, the manufacturer, and the national trade association to address the owner's concerns. Perhaps three times in the past 12-14 years and we closed the issues promptly to the owner's satisfaction. Including vessels in the lemon law statutes is not addressing a problem.

We understand that it takes prompt attention and response to maintain good customer satisfaction, all marine dealers are rated by a CSI index and strive to excel. **Raised Bill No. 388 An Act Concerning Warranties Applicable to Vessels and Marine Engines** is unnecessary. We would be very pleased to discuss these issues at length at any time.

Thank you.

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
President

Linda A. Kowalski
The Kowalski Group