

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

20 Plains Road
Essex, CT 06475-1501

(860) 767-2645 • Fax (860) 767-3559 • e-mail cmta@snet.net

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Commerce Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **H.B. No. 6528 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CLEAN MARINAS**

Chairmen LaBeau and Perrone, Senator Frantz, Representative Lavielle, and Distinguished Members;

The Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) and our member businesses urge you to support **H.B. No. 6528 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CLEAN MARINAS**. The Clean Marina Program was started about 10 years ago by a task force made up of business owners from the Recreational Marine Industry and representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection. Meeting together for months, they developed a guidance manual of all the business activities that happen at a marina and how these same activities can be revamped or changed to have less an adverse impact on the environment and minimize pollutants.

A marine facility that voluntarily meets and exceeds the Clean Marina Manual requirements, passes a detailed inspection visit and has all its permits current can apply for and become a Certified Clean Marina. This designation is well recognized in coastal states as a facility that was significantly ahead of the pack in consideration of the environment, used operating procedures that comply with the best of practices and encourages the state's boaters to learn about and use clean boating techniques when operating and maintaining their boats.

This bill would reward a Certified Clean Marina for its hard work and environmentally correct practices by receiving priority ranking for grants-in-aid and it would also qualify for an additional grant equal to ten percent of the costs of the project. Dredging or harbor improvement projects are generally very expensive and it's rare for any other funding other than their own to be available if a marine facility is trying to complete a project.

We urge you again to support **H.B. No. 6528 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CLEAN MARINAS**. Certified Connecticut Clean Marinas are recognized by the DEEP for their voluntary efforts to operate at standards above and beyond regulatory compliance. CT Clean Marinas have taken great strides to implement practices which minimize the pollution from mechanical activities, painting and fiberglass repair, hauling and storing boats, fueling, facility management, emergency planning and boater education.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and please know that we are available to discuss them at any time.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
President

Linda A. Kowalski
The Kowalski Group