March 7, 2013

To: The Connecticut General Assembly, Environment Committee

Re: March 8, 2013 Public Hearing

Raised Bill 6538: An Act Concerning Arborists and Tree Wardens

We urge you to support this bill, particularly Section 9 which focuses on establishing and requiring appropriate coursework for Municipal Tree Wardens based on the model created by the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut.

We believe this will ensure the highest professional standards of our Tree Wardens in their most important responsibility: public safety.

Municipal Tree Wardens have statutory jurisdiction which is essential to the health and well-being of our Urban Forest. They have authority over “the care and control of all trees and shrubs in whole or in part within the limits of any public road or grounds and within the limits of the town…” (CGS Chapter 451, Section 23-59)

Our citizens deserve the most qualified Tree Wardens for the crucial task of managing our existing Urban Forest—as well as determining what our future Urban Forest will look like.

Please vote in support of Raised Bill 6538.

Pam Klomberg, Chair, Westport Tree Board

Tracey Hammer, Member, Westport Tree Board

Judy James, Member, Westport Tree Board

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