

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB No. 6538 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING ARBORISTS AND TREE WARDENS

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My name is James G. Govoni and I am a 32-year employee of the Town of Windsor, currently holding the Municipal Forester Tree Warden position. I am a member of the State Vegetative Management Task Force and President of the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut.

Today I am here on behalf of the Tree Wardens Association to support Raised Bill 6538. Title 23, Chapter 451, Section 23-59 of the General Statutes of Connecticut state the powers and duties of a tree warden. It is our job to minimize the liability of our municipal government while increasing our urban canopy and roadside forest.

Raised Bill 6538 will set a statewide standard that will enable us to perform these duties at a higher and more consistent level of proficiency. As outlined in Section 9, we are willing and able to complete the coursework approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

This bill is a responsibility of the State of Connecticut. We are faced with an aging forest and an increase in climactic events as experienced with Storms Irene, Alfred and Sandy. It is our duty to provide safety for our residents and protect our infrastructure.

Trees have no boundaries, nor do the various organizations that manage them. Together we will successfully manage our forest for the betterment of Connecticut and citizens will find added value in the role tree wardens perform as they manage the current maturing forest and plant for Connecticut's future; Right Tree, Right Place.

The Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut thanks you for the opportunity to support Raised Bill 6538. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (860) 978-7264 or [treewardenjim@gmail.com](mailto:treewardenjim@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

James G. Govoni, President  
Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut