

# CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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February 13, 2013

Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **H.B. No. 6341 (RAISED) AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT**

Chairmen Coleman & Fox, Senator Kissel and Distinguished Members;

The Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) and our membership urge you to support **H.B. No. 6341 (RAISED) AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT**. This is a complex bill that was crafted in Washington, DC. and forwarded to all states with the hope that a universal statute could be developed and utilized across state lines. It has great value to not only the commercial lending industry but especially to vessel owners and the recreational marine industry's dealers.

Titling a vessel would absolutely determine ownership. That is the protection that The National Marine Bankers Association is looking for as security when lending against a vessel purchase. Just as important, a title could make a boat dealer assured that the used vessel he is taking in trade is not stolen or the subject of an illegal activity. A universal title could allow the US Coast Guard to finally do away with vessel documentation or federal registration, a slow process that offers the same protection but at a much higher cost.

The fee structure proposed for this vessel title is complex, confusing and unnecessary. In Section 28 the fee structure is explained. It would initiate January 2015 for \$50 and then drop to \$25 in January 2018. This is unnecessarily costly. Automobile title fees are \$25 and the same system, and probably forms, will be used for vessels, so there is no reason for different fee structures. The fee should be set at the same level as fees for automobiles (\$25) to maintain the simplicity of the system. Please rethink the excessive fee indicated in Section 28 and move the initiative forward.

We ask for your support of **H.B. No. 6341 (RAISED) AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT**, it's a valuable initiative offering protection to owners, lenders and dealer however the fee structure needs to parallel automobile titling fees to be really workable. That could be accomplished by letting DMV set titling fees as they do with other fees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues 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