



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 18, 2013  
Planning and Development Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel C. Esty  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

**Committee Senate Bill No. 461 –AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY MUNICIPAL COASTAL  
MANAGEMENT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Committee Senate Bill No. 461- An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Municipal Coastal Management in Times of Emergency. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

SB 461 would create a legislatively-appointed task force to consider authorizing municipalities to “supersede” coastal management decisions made by DEEP at times of emergency. DEEP has discussed in some detail issues concerning state and local regulatory jurisdiction and coordination in our presentation to the Shoreline Preservation Task Force on February 13, 2013. As we pointed out, most decisions about coastal development are already made at the local level, with limited input from DEEP, and this was certainly the case during the recent post-storm periods. For those rebuilding activities that were within our jurisdiction, we acted promptly after both Irene and Sandy to issue blanket emergency and temporary authorizations. Based on this experience, it is unclear exactly what DEEP decisions the bill would consider allowing towns to supersede. To the extent that there are any issues regarding state-municipal coordination in the post-storm emergency period, we would be happy to address them directly with the towns involved, as we have already have been doing in both formal venues (public meetings, information sessions, etc.) and in one-on-one meetings with municipalities and state delegations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP’s legislative liaison Robert LaFrance at (860) 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov).