



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. 462 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SEAWALLS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Committee Senate Bill No. 462 – An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Seawalls. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

On January 14, 2013, the General Assembly's Shoreline Preservation Task force issued its report and recommendations, several of which concern seawalls and shoreline protection methods. SB 462 proposes a task force to study the impact of seawalls on protecting shoreline life and property. It is not clear what issues the new task force would examine that were not thoroughly considered by the Shoreline Preservation Task Force, which did an excellent job of describing and analyzing the challenges facing Connecticut's coast. If a new task force is needed, DEEP respectfully submits that the scope be broadened to consider all impacts and implications of all types of shoreline protection structures and treatments. In addition, DEEP suggests that the membership should incorporate a broad range of inputs from scientists, the Army Corps of Engineers, local officials, environmental advocates and DEEP. DEEP notes that a scientific and practical analysis of seawalls and other shoreline protection strategies is contemplated by SB 1013, which would initiate the process for creating the Connecticut Center for Coasts. Further research and analysis on technical shoreline issues would be ideally suited to such a Center.

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).