

Edward A. Zelinsky

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Dear Sir/Madam:

I write in strong support of SB 1013. In particular, I write to urge the creation of a Connecticut Center for Coasts to be established at the Avery Point campus of the University of Connecticut.

By way of background,¹ I am a resident of New Haven, am a summer resident in Branford and am the Morris and Annie Trachman Professor of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University. I have been active in efforts to protect Sunset Beach in Branford.

Connecticut's coastline is our state's greatest natural resource. Yet, there is surprisingly little research to guide policymaking, whether policy is made by the General Assembly, the executive branch including DEEP or the shoreline municipalities. Sensible policy must be data-based but policy cannot be data-based in the absence of data.

The Avery Point campus is one of Connecticut's underappreciated assets, an educational and research jewel which is underutilized by Connecticut's policymakers. SB 1013 would both rectify the shortage of research on Connecticut's coastline and utilize the Avery Point campus for the benefit of all Connecticut residents.

It is fashionable today to characterize all public expenditures as investments in the future. The proposed Center would truly be an investment in the future as well as the present, by providing the research necessary to make scientifically-informed policy relative to Connecticut's shoreline.

I strongly urge the passage of SB 1013 and the creation of the Connecticut Center for the Coasts at Avery Point.

¹ No organization with which I am affiliated has endorsed this personal statement.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Zelinsky