



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – March 15, 2013
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel C. Esty
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

Raised Senate Bill No. 1020 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 1020 – An Act Concerning The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to raise this bill at the request of the DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would allow Connecticut to join the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (Compact). This would assist in protecting the state's natural resources by preventing violations of hunting and fishing laws in our state by people who are under revocation in another state from hunting, fishing or trapping in Connecticut.

Member states may revoke license privileges from other states when there is a revocable offense in another compact member state. Membership in the Compact allows officers to cite and release nonresident violators versus having to make a custodial arrest or the posting of a cash bond as a condition of release. This will allow our officers to spend more time on patrol, surveillance and apprehension of violators.

This proposal will help keep Connecticut from becoming a location that suspended violators from other states can hunt, a safe haven so to speak. The suspension of hunting and fishing privileges has proven to be valuable deterrent to poaching.

Currently, there are thirty-eight active member states that belong to the Compact. Of the twelve non-member states, four have passed legislation which will allow them to become a member of the Compact.

Persons that have had their hunting, trapping or fishing privileges suspended in Connecticut may be suspended for similar violations in other member states.

This bill will enhance the ability of DEEP to provide protection to the public and the state's natural resources by not allowing convicted violators from other states to hunt trap and fish in Connecticut.

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.