



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – February 13, 2013  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

**Raised House Bill No. 6341 – AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS  
ACT**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 6341 –An Act Adopting the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) appreciates the opportunity to present the following testimony.

The DEEP supports the concept of titling in Connecticut, and having participated in the Law Revision Commission Advisory Committee that drafted a report and proposed act upon which this proposal is based, the DEEP supports this bill.

This bill seeks to implement a titling system for vessels. For reference, its form and function would be similar to that of titling for automobiles. A vessel title will provide prima fascia evidence of vessel ownership, something currently absent in our system, and the implementation of a titling system would help in perfecting marine mortgages and provide additional protection for all parties with legal interest in a vessel.

Currently, thirty-four states have titling in some form. The United States Coast Guard, the federal agency that oversees recreational boating and provides annual funding to this state for recreational boating, encourages vessel titling and has made it known that it will seek to make titling for vessels universal throughout all states at some time in the future. With the Implementation of this bill, we can meet this requirement before it becomes a mandate, and on our own terms.

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 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov)