STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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May 28, 2013

The Honorable Andres Ayala, Co-Chair
The Honorable Selim Noujaim, Co-Chair
Regulation Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 011
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Senator Ayala and Representative Noujaim:

Pursuant to Section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit for your consideration and approval the enclosed regulations entitled "Rates of Pilotage for Connecticut Marine Pilots".

The purpose of the proposed amendments is implement a three percent (3%) increase per year for four years to the current marine pilotage rates and codify established charges and practices for pilot boat fees and the associated temporary pilot boat fuel surcharge.

Connecticut marine pilots are charged with guiding foreign flagged commercial vessels into Connecticut's waters and ports. The last rate increase was fully implemented in 2009. Prior to that there had not been a pilotage rate increase since 1983. The proposed 12% pilotage rate increase (3% per year for four years) for Connecticut licensed marine pilots will bring Connecticut pilotage rates more in line with those of neighboring states. Additionally, the 3% increase per year for four years is in alignment with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the past several years.

Marine pilots undertake a substantial capital investment in order to acquire and maintain pilot boats as well as to provide for training and safety equipment costs. The pilotage rate structure should fairly compensate marine pilots while keeping Connecticut's ports competitive with other East Coast ports. Neighboring states (Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York) regularly increase pilotage fees using incremental changes, sometimes based on the CPI. The states of New York and New Jersey have only failed to raise pilot rates in New York Harbor once in the past ten years. Even with the increase, the Connecticut pilotage rates will be approximately 60% of those in Rhode Island and 65% of those in New York.

If there are any questions regarding this request, please contact Ms. Pamela Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at 860-594-3013.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

James Redeker
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Anne Bordiere, OFA
Transportation Committee