



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee,

I wanted to submit this testimony in opposition to Bill 5307 "An Act Concerning the Use of Booms for the Retention of Certain Oils or Petroleum and Revising Certain Requirements for the Registration of Radioactive Materials". The Long Island Sound is one of Connecticut's most important resources, and the state has a track record of supporting the Sound and its users.

The Port of New Haven is the highest volume commercial shipping port on the Long Island Sound and is considered the busiest port between Boston and New York City. With a federally authorized channel depth of 35 feet and a width of 400 to 800 feet, New Haven Harbor can accommodate ships ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 deadweight tons. The New Haven Harbor is also frequented by many recreational boaters, swimmers, and fishermen each year. We believe by booming for all gasoline and oil transfers, we are more prepared on the off chance that a spill occurs, allowing the Fire Chief to determine the best cleanup plan given the circumstances. Containment of the spill helps protect the other users of the port as well as ensuring the gasoline does not end up on the shore.

We believe that in the past 20 years, the use of floating boom retention devices has served as a great safety measure to protect the users of the port and the environment. Removing the booming requirement would require us to work to contain the spill after it occurs, which would be much more difficult. In the case of a large spill that is not contained, it may require ports and local business to shut down due to safety concerns. Booming is a great pre-emptive step to ensure spills are contained and the threat to public safety and the environment is as minimal as possible.

I urge the Environment Committee to reject House Bill 5307. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

SALVATORE E. DECOLA
Alder, Ward 18