

## **Testimony of Briarpatch Enterprises, Inc.**

February 27, 2014

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

We are OPPOSED TO RAISED BILL NO. 5307, LCO NO. 1406, 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.

Briarpatch Enterprises is a shellfish company with beds in New Haven Harbor. We believe all petroleum transfer operations should be boomed.

The release of petroleum products can have many negative and dangerous effects. The first effect is loss of life from potential explosions or fires if vapors or fluids are released. Secondly, there would be environmental damages ranging from bird life to microorganisms suspended in the water column. Most importantly there would be economic impact to my company and environmental damage to the harbor that ultimately interrupts the productive cycles of all shellfish growing areas in New Haven Harbor. This harbor is a unique coastal embayment with diverse marine habitats. Recreational and commercial fishermen depend heavily on the harbor. It is one of the most productive seed and nursery areas for shellfish and fish in the state.

Petroleum products, if released, should be required to be boomed around the vessels. After proper and effective booming, spills should be treated with utmost care and then skimmed and removed from the water. Using the use of dispersants should not be allowed. There should be no release of any petroleum products at any density in the water column of such a sensitive, productive marine environment.

BRIARPATCH ENTERPRISES IS OPPOSED TO RB NO. 5307, LCO NO. 1406