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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Environment Connecticut Campaign Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

February 28, 2014

**Regarding House 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.**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the committee: My name is Chris Phelps and I am Campaign Director for Environment Connecticut. Our organization is a nonprofit member-based environmental advocacy organization working to protect Connecticut's air, water, and natural landscape. We appreciate this opportunity to offer testimony regarding HB 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.

Environment Connecticut opposes HB 5307 in its current form. Currently, Sec. 22a-457a of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that vessels transferring petroleum products deploy floating spill retention booms. This 20-year old law exists to protect water quality and wildlife from oil and gas spills into waterways.

Specifically, we oppose the provision of section 1(b) of HB 5307 which eliminates the booming requirement for transfer of "oil or petroleum liquids with a flash point less than one hundred degrees Fahrenheit." This exemption would include both gasoline and kerosene.

The effect of spills of oil and petroleum products into our waterways is well known and documented. Connecticut has a long history of commitment to protecting and preserving our fragile waterways, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems. We urge the committee to maintain that commitment by rejecting section 1(b) of HB 5307.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,

Chris Phelps
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