

Marine General
1 First Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 933-3208

Testimony in opposition to 5307

February 27, 2014

Dear Honorable members of the Environment Committee:

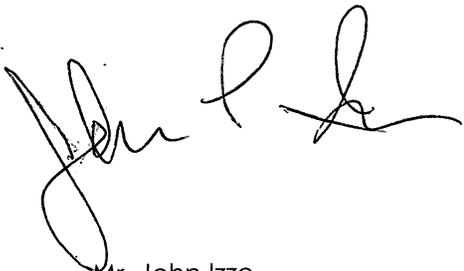
I am the owner of Marine General located on First Avenue adjacent to the City of West Haven Boat ramp. Marine General is a supplier and service provider for both commercial fishing and recreational marine vessels in New Haven County. For 13 years I was the proprietor of the 130 slip "Oyster Point Marina" located on New Haven Harbor. I'm also the former proprietor of Shiner's Cove Marina which was located on Water Street in West Haven.

Since 1990, Connecticut has had a spill boom law that requires that tanker barges and ships are to be encircled by floating protective spill booms. Now I understand there is a movement to remove a portion of the very law that has provided for public and commercial safety as well as afforded protection for environment. Specifically continuing to boom gasoline vessels and capturing spilled gasoline inside the boom is far safer than allowing to escape and flowing uncontrolled possibly finding one of the many ignition sources on or about the harbor. Petroleum terminal docks and ships are inherently constructed for safety in hazardous and explosive environments as required by Federal regulations. They exist in these dangerous environments safely on a normal basis. Recreational and commercial boaters are not such equipped. The neighboring marinas, waterside restaurants with patios, cars and people on the Tomlinson Bridge and fishing pier, other unexpected spark producers in the harbor deserve the protection now afforded by containing dangerous products in booms.

So in closing why change a law for small confined harbors that has been working since 1990. We've had spills, the Fire Department has foamed them and released or cleaned them when there was no danger to neighboring terminals, the unsuspecting general public and the environment. The danger exists of having uncontrolled gasoline flushing up the Quinnipiac river on an incoming tide. The river has clam/oyster seeding beds and the inner and outer harbor have mature clam/oyster beds. There are numerous public venues including Marinas. The Fusco maritime building houses ,a daycare center without door playgrounds adjacent to the water, not to mention the many employees that spend break time adjacent to the water. The NEW Boat House being built between the New Haven public dock and Lenny and Joes restaurant is directly across from the petroleum terminals on the east side of the harbor. They are bustling with activity, boats, some smokers- do we surround them with a plume of gasoline.

The tidal flats on the West side of the harbor are reordered by the DEEP as being the most productive in the State of CT, not to mention all the wetlands in the harbor and up the adjoining Quinnipiac River. I urge you not to adopt HB5307.

Thank you for your consideration.



Mr. John Izzo
Proprietor