



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee
February 28, 2014

Testimony In Opposition to Section 1 of
HB 5307 AAC the Use of Booms for the Retention of Certain Oils or Petroleum
and Revising Certain Requirements for the Registration of Radioactive Materials

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Preemptive spill containment booming was established in Connecticut in 1990. This practice ensured that spills of petroleum products would not cause aquatic harm. Doing our best to clean up toxic spills might reduce the environmental damage, but proactively ensuring minimal impact of those spills provides much better protection of our environment.

The past 50 years of learning how to implement environmental protection has taught us it must be the responsibility of the (potential) polluter to address the consequences of his actions. Booming helps prevent pollution which could become a responsibility of the public.

Coastal areas where fuel transfers occur most often are sensitive environmental areas. Oil based fluids such as gasoline will cause significant damage to aquatic life in these estuarine waters. These spills can spread rapidly unless immediately contained.

We find that it would be irresponsible to allow fuel transfers without proper safeguards. As we know how to deploy preventive booms, they must continue to be required.

The Sierra Club strongly recommends voting against Section 1 of HB 5307, which would change Section 22a-457a of the general statutes. We take no position on Section 2 of the bill.