

Testimony on House Bill 5408

March 3, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This is testimony regarding House Bill 5408 -- An Act Concerning Tree Trimming.

I support the idea in your proposed bill and agree that the burden of proof for tree trimming or removal should fall upon the Utility. Additionally, please consider the following proposals that will help protect our trees, our neighborhoods, and the environment:

- Require utilities to obtain written consent from property owners for removal of trees on private property
- Require utilities to give one month's notice to Abutting Property Owners -- via certified mail -- for proposed removal of trees on public property, with clear instructions on how to object
- Allow the local Tree Warden to have final say as to whether a tree is removed
- Do not allow healthy trees to be removed or overly trimmed
- Require Utility to grind stumps of removed trees
- Require Utility to plant a replacement tree, as close as possible to the old one, for each tree removed
- Create greater accountability of tree service companies by requiring a 100% performance bond
- Require Utility to provide a direct phone line to a customer service representative assigned to handle questions and/or objections regarding tree trimming or removal

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill Nathanson
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