

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of one of Hamden's urban neighborhoods, I am very concerned about UI's "enhanced tree removal plan." With that in mind, I would like to encourage you to include the following in House Bill 5408:

- adequate publicity of and time for public comment on utility tree removal plans to allow for adjustments in accordance with citizens' concerns
- requirement of written consent from property owners for removal of trees on private property
- require each tree to be assessed by utilizing an industry-approved system, not one of a utility's own creation
- require planting of replacement trees where desired by property owners
- ensure greater accountability of tree service contractors through the requirement of a performance bond
- give municipalities the ability to refuse tree removal
- require utilities to provide a direct phone line for customer service assigned to handling questions and issues regarding tree trimming and removal

Thank you for your attention to this issue important to our neighborhoods.

Kathy Czepiel  
Hamden