

Testimony regarding House Bill 5408 - Tuesday, Mar 4 Hearing

To whom it may concern:

I understand the Legislative Committee on Energy will hold a hearing on a possible bill on Tree Trimming (AAA Tree Trimming) on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. This is a very important issue for the state of CT for both environmental and economic reasons. I respectfully ask that the following items be considered for inclusion in this bill, and that this bill remain active:

- Insist on biannual reviews and evaluations of the UI and CL&P tree trimming/vegetation management plans, including public comment, to allow for adjustments as needed

- Require utility companies to obtain written consent from property owners for removal of trees on private property

- Require utility companies to plant a replacement tree for every hazardous tree removed

- Require utility companies to grind stumps of removed trees (and not on an ad hoc basis)

- Require that utility companies provide a direct phone line to a customer service representative assigned to handle questions on (and/or objections to) tree trimming and removal

- Create greater accountability of tree removal service contractors by requiring a performance bond

Sincerely,

Lisa Kleintjes Kamemoto

Resident of Hamden, CT

And Executive Committee member of Hamden Alliance for Trees