



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 24, 2014
Judiciary Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee and
Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

Raised House Bill No. 5216 – AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5216 – AN ACT ADOPTING THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We generally support this proposal because participated in the Law Revision Commission's Advisory Committee that drafted the initial concepts.

This bill seeks to implement a titling system for vessels. For reference, the form and function of this proposal would be similar to that of titling for automobiles. A vessel title will provide *prima facie* evidence of vessel ownership, and the implementation of a titling system would help in perfecting marine mortgages and provide additional protection for all parties with a legal interest in a vessel.

Currently, thirty-four states have titling in some form. The United States Coast Guard, the federal agency that oversees recreational boating and provides annual funding to this state for recreational boating safety, encourages vessel titling. The Coast Guard has made it known that it will seek to make titling for vessels universal throughout the United States at some time in the future.

DEEP will benefit directly from establishing a titling system in Connecticut. The U.S. Coast Guard has suggested that establishment of state vessel titling system may tied to the recreational boating safety funding that comes to DEEP. With the implementation Raised House Bill No. 5216 we can meet this requirement before it becomes a federal mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).