

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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February 24, 2014

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Raised Bill No. 5216 An Act Adopting the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act.**

Chairmen Coleman & Fox, Ranking Members Kissel & Rebimbas, and distinguished Members:

The membership of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association urges you to support **Raised Bill No. 5216 An Act Adopting the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act.** This legislation, originally formulated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, is being submitted in all states for uniform adoption. It also was the subject of a series of meetings over the last two years by The Connecticut Law Revision Commission's Advisory Committee. This Committee was populated by a very diverse group to include representatives from everyone impacted including this association. It's an excellent initiative and currently appears to meet all committee members criteria.

Passage and implementation of a Uniform Vessel Title will serve as proof positive of ownership of a vessel and make not only ownership secure, but significantly aid in perfecting mortgages and ensuring that all parties' legal interests are recognized. There is a major benefit to boat dealers when taking a boat in trade with a title and knowing absolutely that the ownership is clean. There is also the same benefit to any boat owner proving their ownership prior to any vessel transfer. The title portion goes into exhausting detail about the forms necessary, information required, and timing necessary to complete the titling process.

Through active discussions, the marine industry has seen our few objections cleared. The hard work by DMV and TSOS have eliminated a number of concerns. The fee structure was discussed at length and, in fact, it will now mirror existing paperwork already in the system. Other issues such as how the title itself may be presented will be left to the purview of DMV.

This Uniform Title Act is an excellent step in the right direction and would offer protections to both owners and boat dealers in Connecticut. It is new, only one other state has adopted this Act as yet and it needs time to allow all the different states to become more uniform in terms, details, and requirements but we urge your support for this **Raised Bill No. 5216 An Act Adopting the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act.** Thank you and know that we will discuss this issue at any time.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
President

Linda A. Kowalski
The Kowalski Group