

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COALITION



February 25, 2014

Transportation Committee
Room 2300
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee,

This testimony is submitted by the Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc. in support of **Raised Bill No 5289, LCO No. 1106, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY.**

The Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc (CMC) is a 501-c-6 non-profit trade organization representing the Connecticut's deep-water port industry since 1999. Our membership; Briarpatch Enterprises, Blakeslee Arpaia Chapman, Cross Sound Ferry Services, Connecticut Maritime Association, Connecticut State Pilots, Empire Fisheries, Gateway Terminal, Gwenmor Marina & Marine Contracting, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Interport Pilots Agency, Moran Towing Corporation, New England Shipping Company, New Haven Port Authority, New Haven Terminal, Port Security Services, Santa Energy Corporation, Sea Support, Thames Towboat, Thames Shipyard & Repair Company, and Underwater Construction Corporation, thanks Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and all of the Committee Members for your hard work in 2013 that resulted in unanimously passing Senate Bill 1043, now reflected in Raised Bill No. 5289.

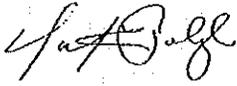
We supported Senate Bill 1043 and now fully support Raised Bill No. 5289 because for the first time in Connecticut's history, a Port Authority will be put in place that mirrors successful Port Authority's across the United States and contains the following attributes:

1. A lean 7 member board with experience and expertise in International Trade, Marine Transportation, Finance, and Economic Development.
2. An Executive Director with a strong background in the commercial maritime industry and extensive experience in the development and management of multi-use port operations.
3. Pursues federal funds for dredging and other infrastructure improvements to increase cargo movement through the Ports
4. Markets the advantages of the Ports to the domestic and international shipping industry
5. Plans and funds capitol projects promoting the development of the Ports
6. Develops strategic entrepreneurial initiatives in the Ports.

Our three deep water ports, New London; New Haven; and Bridgeport are great assets to the State, and for to long have been in decline and at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states. Given the close proximity to the shipping lanes, and with careful planning and marketing by the Port Authority described in Raised Bill No. 5289, our Ports will again attract commercial shipping lines enthusiastic to do business in Connecticut.

For all these reasons, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition, Inc. supports Raised Bill No. 5289, LCO No. 1106 in its entirety and effective from passage.

Thank you for your consideration and especially for Senator Maynard's leadership, wisdom and foresight in the creation of the Connecticut Port Authority.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Pohorylo".

David E. Pohorylo
Chairman