

**Appropriations Committee
March 2, 2015
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Budget Public Hearing**

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Brian Florek, I work for the State of Connecticut as the supervisor of Surveys and Mapping and I am testifying today as a proud member of CSEA SEIU Local 2001.

We have lots of reporting mandates from the legislature but we lack the staff and the hours to complete the work. My division of Land Acquisition and Property Management has lost 4 property agents as well as our assistant director over the last three years. We have not had any positions refilled during that time. The survey division that I supervise once had 12 people, now it consists of just myself and a couple of seasonal employees---when I am allowed to hire them. Seasonal employees are temporary workers and not state employees. They can only provide 6 months of work at a time and by the time I train them to do the work they are gone.

Currently I am involved in the "Registry" a GIS based program of all DEEP Land records which is under my purview. This program will allow all land records to be electronic and downloaded as individual parcels when purchased by the state. All new easements will be included in this program, too. The purpose will help us research DEEP properties for covenants, restrictions, easements and such.

The "Preserve" is another big project I am involved with. I will be approving all the mapping and deeds for this transaction. This is a multi-town project which involves The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Essex. This project will lock up over 1000 acres of "open space".

I would like to wrap up my testimony by saying the CT State Statutes mandate that "all state lands must be surveyed by 1983". I am the lone land surveyor for an agency that owns over 256,000 acres so you can see why we are struggling. We, as a Union, applaud the legislative efforts to protect the environment but we are concerned these efforts will fall short without adequate resources.

Thank you.

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