



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – February 13, 2015  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted and Presented by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**RAISED SENATE BILL NO. 867 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FIREWOOD TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised Senate Bill No. 867 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FIREWOOD TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to raise this bill at the request of DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would establish alternate, easily enforceable, "payable by mail" fines for lesser firewood transportation violations of regulations authorized under section 22-84 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This revision will greatly enhance DEEP's ability to prevent the introduction or spread of federal and state regulated forest pests by improving the enforceability of the law that regulates the transport of firewood into and within Connecticut. These options for lesser violations of Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 22-84-5g, *Regulation of firewood transported into and within Connecticut*, will enhance law enforcement authorities' flexibility to immediately and efficiently address violations.

These regulations and other helpful information can be found at:

<http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2826&Q=508926&PM=1&caesNav=1>

Thirty-six states advocate minimizing firewood transport, with twenty-six states (including Connecticut) restricting its movement. Firewood is a known vector for spreading invasive tree destroying insects. This bill follows National Firewood Task Force recommendations that were developed with input from the forest product industry, federal and state governments, and other stakeholders, that states should regulate the movement of firewood and that the federal government require national labeling, record keeping, and treatment for interstate transport.

The establishment of fines “payable by mail” will greatly simplify enforcement and increase efficiencies, thereby reducing further risk of spreading unwanted destructive forest pests and providing additional opportunities for increased public awareness and vigilance. Without this enforcement enhancement, eradication and mitigation costs are likely to increase, due to delayed detection should a foreign pest become established in Connecticut from infested out-of-state firewood.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports **Raised Senate Bill No. 867 – An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Firewood Transport Restrictions by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection** and looks forward to working with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and others taking this step to further protect Connecticut’s precious natural resources

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](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov)).