

Marc Dombkowski From-Clinton

Testimony regarding Senate Bill Number 1061

Session Year 2015

Hello Senators and Representatives of the Environmental Committee. My name is Marc Dombkowski from Clinton Connecticut I am currently the operator of the concessions and camp store at Hammonasset State Park in Madison. I am writing this testimony to oppose Section 6 of Senate Bill 1061, AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE PARKS.

By passing this Bill not only will you be putting me out of work but also the operators of Rocky Neck State Park and Gillette Castle State Park. Also affected would be the TWENTY-FIVE or so employees I hire each season most of who are returning from past years of working for me, coming from towns as far north as Waterford and as far south as Branford. They range in ages from 16 thru 68. Some of whom are also disabled and work just as hard as the rest.

Taking away this opportunity that BESB-DORS has given me and many others would be a horrible decision not only for today's blind operators but also the blind operators of the future. The Randolph-Sheppard Law enacted on June 20, 1936 is the only law that gives a qualified blind person the first right of refusal to an opportunity to have their own business on federal, state or municipal properties which would probably have been denied because of their disability.

Having this opportunity to operate in the state parks has given me a chance to not rely so much on government services such as being able to carry my own health insurance.

I also have three children, two ten year olds and one fifteen year old who all would feel the repercussions of losing my business, my fifteen year old has the same retina degeneration disease that I have, and receives services from BESB-DORS. Soon she will be old enough to work for me and is always asking when she can.

Having this business has also given me opportunities to give back to BESB-DORS such as giving lunch to visually impaired camp groups visiting the park. I have also been approached to sponsor a week long work study for some visually impaired high school students.

When making your decision, on this matter please consider the impact it will have on the three operators and also the many others who will be affected. I believe that I have shown the staff at Hammonasset State Park and my prior location at Rocky Neck State Park that I am willing to work together and make necessary changes to help make the patrons of the park a positive experience. Please let me continue to be involved with this effort.

Thank you for listening to my testimony, and feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely, Marc Dombkowski

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