



State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Sen. Larson, Rep. Dargan, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed **H.B. No. 6494:**
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHEN BLASTING CAUSES DAMAGES.

This legislation would require the state to establish complaint procedures for property owners when property is damaged by blasting.

This proposal would also amend the state's existing blasting regulations.

This issue was brought to my attention by Chester resident Deborah Rindge.

Deborah is a homeowner whose property was negatively impacted by the effects of blasting which took place near her house.

The blasting ruined Deborah's well.

And Deborah's story is not an isolated issue.

This is a statewide issue, and it calls for a statewide solution.

As a state senator, I work for my constituents. I listen to them and when I see something that is unjust, I take action.

Deborah Rindge's property in Chester was damaged through no fault of her own.

Deborah has lost more than \$15,000 in drilling costs and tests to prove a neighboring blast damaged her property and dried her well.

My job is to ask what we can do at the state level going forward to try to prevent this from happening to others.

Our bill seeks to change – and update - the way the state regulates blasting.

To give you an idea:

Major updates to the state's blasting laws and regulations have not been made in decades.

That's far too long for a review not to occur.

I see this as an opportunity to improve protections for property owners like Deborah.

I also see this as an opportunity to improve public safety.

I want to thank the committee chairs for giving this proposal a public hearing.

You are giving property owners a voice.

I believe this is a great example of an issue that Republicans and Democrats can agree on.

This issue can't wait when there are people like Deborah whose lives are being impacted by a state law that hasn't been updated in a long time.

I want to praise Deborah for raising this issue.

I also commend News 8 for conducting an investigation which allowed Deborah to tell her story and the station has followed up on it.

Now the fight begins in Hartford to prevent future situations like Deborah's.

Thank you for your time – and for your consideration – of H.B. 6494.