



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Public Hearing – February 23, 2015
Transportation Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner James Redeker
Department of Transportation**

H.B. 5948 – An Act Concerning the Sale of Surplus Timber by the Department of Transportation.

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) offers the following comments on H.B. 5948, which directs CTDOT to create a process by which surplus wood produced from tree-cutting along rights-of-way is sold instead of chipped.

The operation today, with the use of equipment that can very quickly cut and gather several trees together for chipping, has proven to be cost effective and has greatly reduced the time working on the highways. The chips are being spread along the roadsides and used as a mulch barrier reducing vegetation growth.

Trees being cut along Department roadsides are undesirable for use as lumber. Sawmills will not take these trees because over the years wire fencing, nails, signs and other metal have been attached to portions of the trees. Many of the trees growing along roadside are found to be hollow or have structural defects making the trees undesirable as marketable timber. Also, as the trees grow over the open road they form a sweep or bow which will not allow the trees to be placed in a sawmill and cut into marketable lumber.

Further, CTDOT does not have the equipment to handle the wood for resale as firewood. This would be exposing the Department to liabilities by allowing private entities access to the wood on our property, and current labor rates of Department personnel would make it cost prohibitive for the Department to process the wood for sale.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or CJ Strand (carl.strand@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.