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March 20, 2015

Environment Committee, CT General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

My name is Robert R. Occhialini, 49 Prospect Hill Rd, Noank CT and I am a member of the Groton Shellfish Commission, Town of Groton. I am writing to the committee requesting your support of the following bills before the committee.

HB5720 "A Act Requiring the DEPT of Agriculture to double the Capacity for Shellfish Sample Testing and to establish a site for Shellfish Sample Testing East of the CT River"

This bill would assist volunteer shellfish commissions that are mandate by the state to test their waters for shellfish activities. Historically the state did this testing, and then required the volunteer commissions to do state testing (the state provided courier service to the lab), then the state mandated the volunteer commissions to test and deliver the samples to the lab in Milford CT. Our commission is 100 percent volunteer with no state or town funding. This would lessen the financial burden the state has mandated on our volunteer commission.

HB5722 "An Act Authorizing the Taking of Certain Oysters that are Two and One Half Inches in Length."

This bill will assist growers in moving their product to different areas to comply with state regulations.

SB357 "An Act Concerning the Promotion of the Shellfish Industry in CT."

This bill will create an authority to assist the shellfish industry and the State with regulations and policies in the State of Ct.

Thank you,

Robert R. Occhialini