



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – February 27, 2015
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted and Presented by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

Committee Senate Bill No. 699 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR TOWING ANY PERSON BY VESSEL AND REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF A SAFE TOWING COURSE PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH TOWING BY VESSEL.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Committee Senate Bill No. 699 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR TOWING ANY PERSON BY VESSEL AND REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF A SAFE TOWING COURSE PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH TOWING BY VESSEL.** This bill proposes that the general statutes be amended to: (1) Prohibit any person under the age of sixteen from towing any person on any apparatus by vessel, and (2) establish a safe towing-by-vessel course that shall be successfully completed prior to engaging in such towing.

We have met with the Fedorko family and we are appreciative of the strength they have demonstrated in the face of the horrible tragedy they have experienced. Hopefully, the foundation they have established to honor Emily will help educate everyone in our area about how to be safe on the water while enjoying water sports.¹

DEEP supports Senate Bill 699 to establish "Emily's law" by creating safe towing by boat laws in Connecticut and the bill's broader goal of reducing the risk of injury and death attributed to waterskiing and other water sports done behind a vessel.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. DEEP would be pleased to assist the Committee in crafting final language of this important bill.

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 (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).

¹ <http://www.emsway.org/>