

I write in strong support of HB 5150.

Town tree wardens should post any proposed removal or pruning by a utility or other third party, without regard to property-owner consent. Healthy trees have a positive impact on entire neighborhoods, and all residents should have the opportunity to weigh in on the fate of a tree that is at risk of being removed (or pruned improperly).

The Connecticut DOT should be required to submit plans for proposed tree management to the Legislature and DEEP for review and approval prior to any tree-cutting. It is critical that our non-hazardous, mature trees be protected from removal, and be pruned in accordance with specified standards.

In addition, the utility companies should be required to clean up debris resulting from tree removal. Without the legal requirement to do so, they often do not.

The improvements codified in this bill are essential. Please support its passage.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

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