

**February 16, 2016**

**Hamden Alliance for Trees (HAT) strongly and enthusiastically supports HB 5150.**

We believe it is essential that town tree wardens post any proposed removal or pruning by a utility or other third party, regardless of property-owner consent. The beneficial impacts of trees affect entire neighborhoods, and all concerned residents should have the opportunity to weigh in on the fate of a tree.

We fully support requiring DOT 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 are protected from removal, and are pruned in accordance with specified standards.

Lastly, we believe that the utility companies should be required to clean up debris left from tree and/or shrub removal. This step is often left undone, and will be rectified only by legal requirement. HAT greatly appreciates the improvements that are codified in this bill and strongly supports its passage.

Sincerely,

Hamden Alliance for Trees