



In Support of H.B. No. 5150, AN ACT CONCERNING TREE WARDENS' NOTICES ON TREES AND SHRUBS PRIOR TO REMOVAL, TREE REMOVAL ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS AND CLEAN-UP BY PUBLIC UTILITY CORPORATIONS FOLLOWING CERTAIN TREE REMOVAL

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee on Environment:

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy, 600 families strong, founded in 2007 to preserve and enhance our tree and forest resources has been partnering with our town and specifically the Town Tree Warden, Bruce Spaman, for the past 9 years. We have seen first-hand the advantages to our environment, health and town economy of posting all trees requested to be removed or seriously pruned.

We have specifically benefited by the posting of trees requested by *Eversource* to be removed as they have in many cases not needed to remove all trees first requested.

Any tree permitted for removal by the Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden shall be posted for a period of ten days and subject to a public hearing if contested.

Greenwich Public Tree Policy

By having a consistent Town Public Tree Policy that supports this procedure and a Town Tree Warden that enforces it we have been able to have both reliable power and a beneficial tree canopy for many years.

We therefore support **section 2** of H.B. 5150.

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy supports **section 3**. We believe that tree removal along state highways can have negative effects including: street flooding and impacts to both our environment and the beauty of our towns. Greenwich is divided by one of the most historic state highways in the country. Route 1 is a major east–west state highway along Long Island Sound that follows the old Boston Post Road and was chartered in 1792. (In 1806 it became part of the longer **Connecticut Turnpike**.)

Section 4 ensures that utilities are legally obligated to remove debris after pruning or removal of trees and shrubs. Once again we wholeheartedly support this section. *Eversource* has not consistently removed debris after removing and/or pruning trees and the town has had the added expense of clean up.

The Greenwich Tree Conservancy respectfully requests that the committee vote in favor of this bill.

Submitted by JoAnn Messina, Executive Director

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