

Good Afternoon I'm Karl Reichle. I am opposed to HB # 5150 it as written. By removing the word may and inserting the word shall, it reduces the discretion the local Tree Warden now has.

I'm a retired Tree Warden who served the Town of South Windsor for 28 years, also Past President of the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut and currently serving on the board of directors for both The Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut and also the Connecticut Tree Protective Association.

The State of Connecticut has 169 different towns, each having its own Tree Warden with some issues that are common to all Towns and some issues that are unique to the towns they serve. Tree Wardens do not need more legislation to accomplish their duties. All one has to do is look around the State and see some communities with very active Tree Wardens and some in violation of current state statues ,by not having one at all. What the utilities, the environment and all communities need are municipal officials who are concerned about not having an active Tree Warden to manage both, having reliable electric service and having a vibrant healthy roadside forest that benefits everyone.

A few years ago the legislature enacted some very good legislation requiring Tree Wardens to be qualified to perform their duties.

What the State needs is Tree Wardens to be proactive in their jobs. This will happen when it becomes crucial for all communities to view the Tree Warden as a very integral part of the future of their communities. The Utility Companies will have better working relations in the communities they serve, when they know what is expected of them and they have an active Tree Warden to work with. The environment will be better served when there is someone who has an active role in balancing the needs of the trees and the needs of their community.

The State can improve the current trees vs. electrical power situation by enforcing current state statues and make sure each Town having an active Tree Warden and not looking to reduce the discretion each local Tree Warden has to manage the tree issues in their own communities. One size does not fit all as far as Tree Wardens in Connecticut are concerned. They need more support both from the State and Local communities and not less discretion in doing their jobs

Thank you for your time, if I can be of any assistance with Tree Wardens, Utilities or the Environment please contact me at municipaltreesllc@gmail.com or my phone (860) 268-5931 or (860) 289-8436

Karl Reichle 151 Windsorville Rd. South Windsor Ct. 06074