

February 18, 2016

Re: Raised Bill No. 5051 –

To the Members of the Environment Committee:

I am in favor of Sections 1 and 2 of H.B. 5150. I do not have any opinion at this time regarding Sections 3 and 4. I believe Sections 1 and 2 should be one Bill with Sections 3 and 4 being a second Bill.

I have extensive experience with the practices of Connecticut's tree wardens. Since 1991, I have been tracking tree warden practices by means of survey research having published results in scholarly journals. These references are available at the UConn CLEAR/Tree Warden Outreach page:

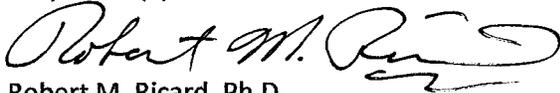
<http://clear.uconn.edu/outreach/TreeWarden/index.htm>

Based on original findings, I created the Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut, Inc., in 1992, and formed the Tree Warden School in 1998 with both continuing to play a critical role in tree warden qualifications.

Since 1901 when the Tree Warden Law was first passed, *posting* has been the primary means for public engagement with local tree warden practices. Raised Bill 5150 (Sections 1 and 2) helps increase public engagement, which I believe is a best practice for municipal forestry. The language also removes ambiguities, as well.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on H.B. 5150. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully yours,



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