



TOWN OF BRANFORD
Community Forest Commission

P.O. Box 150 • Branford CT 06405-0150



Testimony of Shirley McCarthy, Chair Branford Community Forest Commission to the Environment Committee, February 19, 2016.

In support of H.B. 5150

The primary mission of our forest commission is to preserve and protect trees. The utility companies have, in many cases throughout the state, decimated the urban forest, decreasing property values, destroying wildlife habitat, increasing heating and cooling costs, decreasing our carbon sink as well as degrading the esthetic and health benefits of trees. House bill 5150 clarifies that the tree warden must provide notice to neighbors and members of a community of any planned tree/ large shrub removal. Too often, the utility just comes in to a town with little or no notice and cuts, thereupon leaving an unsightly mess of debris. This bill prevents that.

The plan for some oversight/input to the DOT's current degradation of our highways is sorely needed, given the unsightly view that has been created by DOT'S non specific removal of innumerable healthy trees.

Please support H.B. 5150. Thank you!