

Chairs and Members of the Environment Committee,

I am an angler from Tolland and I'd like to submit my opposition to Bill 5316 and reluctant support for Bill 139.

**Raised H.B. No. 5316 - AN ACT CONCERNING SPORT FISHING LICENSES FOR ANGLERS WHO ARE SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.**

I **oppose** the establishment of a new fee for anglers who are over the age of 65. Anglers who have reached that age have likely contributed thousands of dollars in license, permit and fishing expense related taxes over their lifetime. Most other states recognize that contribution by granting an "free license" to those individuals. They also appreciate that these seasoned anglers bring their grandchildren and younger friends forward into this sport and so, new generations who will continue to contribute in support. Recognize too, these individuals have seen the largest increases in license, new permit (*for example, saltwater licensing*) and stamps fees in history, over their lifetime. Throw them a bone in the form a gratis license; they'll continue to pay for the stamps.

**Raised Bill No. 139 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP.**

I **reluctantly support** the establishment of a new fee for a "Trout Stamp", as long as all the revenue collected is used to support the Connecticut trout hatcheries and the associated programs aimed at stocking our waters. I am cautious in my support because of how similar fees for "Pheasant Stamps" have been raised and later diverted or withheld in the past. These fees should only be assessed if they will be used to directly support the use for which they are collected.

Thank-you,

Mike Zygm