



State of Connecticut

SENATE

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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Testimony of Sen. Rob Kane
Environment Committee
February 24, 2016

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE &
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY**

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

H.B. No. 5316 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SPORT FISHING LICENSES FOR ANGLERS WHO ARE SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. (ENV)

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee,

I'm Sen. Rob Kane of the 32nd District and I write to you in opposition to this proposal.

My district is home to a large population of seniors. At the State Capitol, I try as best I can to be their voice. Fishing licenses in Connecticut are currently free for anyone over 65 years of age. If this proposal passes, that will no longer be the case. This proposal represents an added cost for seniors in Connecticut who wish to fish.

I believe that when fees and taxes are raised, the added burdens that are placed on our residents give them more incentive to leave Connecticut. The policies that have been passed in Hartford over the past five years have raised taxes by the largest amount in state history and by the second largest amount in state history. Higher fees and new taxes make our state less appealing.

A recent Gallup Poll found that Connecticut leads all states in percentage of residents who would like to leave. Nearly half (46%) of Connecticut residents would like to leave their state if they had the opportunity.

Instead of placing more burdens on seniors, let's focus on policies which make them want to stay here in Connecticut.

Thank you and I urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

State Senator Rob Kane
32nd District