

Statement of David North  
Environment Committee  
Senate Bill 78  
February 19, 2016

Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Albis, Sen. Chapin, Rep. Shaban and the members of the committee.

My name is David North and I reside in Guilford. I am representing my self and my company of 35 years, Brown's Boat Yard.

I would like to offer some brief comments on Bill 78 , An Act concerning the disposition of Dredged materials from certain Harbors and Ports

on Long Island Sound.

I oppose bill 78 for a number of reasons: #1 It just simply is not needed

#2 It is contrary to the goals and mission of the CT CAM act

#3 It is a Transportation matter , not Environmental matter  
so it is in the wrong committee.

#4 Reasonable landward options essentially do not exist in the

discussion area

Not needed. Page one of the application for dredging and structures permit in Ct requires the applicant to first consider upland disposal before determining that open water must be used. This has been the case for many many years. Almost nowhere in CT are such upland sites available. Current law already requires open water disposal as last resort. On the testing part : Sediment testing has been required to determine the suitability for open water disposal for many many years. The sampling has gotten more and more complex and expensive in the last 10 to 15 years. ( more sample required for given area)  
There is simply no scientific evidence that Bill 78 would do ANYTHING to reasonably improve the water Quality of Long Island Sound.

The Goals of the CAM act are quite specific to the fact that water dependent facilities are to get the highest priority as a land use matter.

Therefore the CAM act has the responsibility protect those uses to the greatest extent possible. Among those uses are transportation terminals, Marinas and Boat Yards for recreation and commercial uses. Bill 78 does nothing to strengthen the ability of these desired uses to continue ,but puts pressure on on property owners to sell out to less desirable uses under the CAM act.

In case any of you have not gotten the chance to tour the CT coastline, it is pretty much spoken for. Mostly residential homes, many State and local parks, the cities have highly developed waterfronts, the rail and highway system skirts the area, and the rest is protected salt marsh. So let us face the facts. There is precious little space on the CT shoreline area to dispose of the sediments from Long Island Sound. So please do not move Bill 78 any further.

Dredging is an important TRANSPORTATION ISSUE. More of a transportation/ DOT jurisdiction. Just Saying.

I have lived and worked on Long Island Sound for many many years. We have seen the Quality of Long Island Sound Improve greatly. This is due to many things, among them is we do not dump our solid waste (garbage) in the sound anymore, the public is much better about litter and trash around the water, cities have made great progress in sewage treatment plants, towns have gotten homeowners to upgrade to compliant septic systems, DEP regulations on non

filling of wetlands and restoration of many wetlands. All these things and more have contributed to a Healthy Long Island Sound.

Thanks. And come down to the shore sometime , I will be happy to get you out on the water !

Dave North