

February 19, 2016

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

I would like to offer brief comments on Senate Bill 78, An Act Concerning the Disposition of Dredged Materials from Certain Harbors and Ports on Long Island Sound.

My name is Douglas Domenie . I reside in Lyme, Ct and I a partner in the Brewer Yacht Yards, which owns and operates 8 marinas in Connecticut, employing over 250 Connecticut residents and providing access to the waters of Connecticut and Long Island Sound for over 3,000 recreational boat owners.

I respectfully urge your **opposition to SB-78**, which contradicts the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) regarding the disposal of dredged materials in the designated areas of the waters of Long Island Sound through open water placement.

Long Island Sound and the waters of Connecticut are treasured by myself, my coworkers and our customers for the recreational activities provided by these waters. Likewise these waters provide jobs and economic input to the state of Connecticut. Therefore we all have a stake in maintaining these waters and do so daily.

In order to provide and maintain access to these waters, dredging is a needed activity as our properties continuously are silted by upstream waters. Dredging has occurred for many years, and during these years it has been permitted because of the close monitoring provided by multiple Federal and State agencies, and only after considerable scientific testing, therefore providing for the safe disposal of the materials. After considerable study the Army Corps of Engineers has produced its Dredge Materials Management Plan which supports the continued open water disposal of dredge materials. This plan was developed based on significant research and study as well as the input of affected stakeholders, and it outlines comprehensive recommendations for managing and disposing of dredged materials in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner.

“A cost effective manner” is a key the continued ability for ours and other like businesses to survive. Dredging is neither an easy or inexpensive process. Significant testing and permitting is required in order to gain approval, and then the cost to remove the dredge materials is extremely expensive, but open water disposal provides this avenue. Without open water disposal, at a reasonably reachable location, we will be out of business. We have no alternative to dredging.

I have serious concerns with this legislation and ask that you consider the points I have made here-in Thank you for this opportunity and for your serious consideration in this matter.

Douglas Domenie
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