

**Ralph Eno
First Selectman
Town of Lyme
Before the Environment Committee
February 18, 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to SB-78, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF DREDGED MATERIALS FROM CERTAIN HARBORS AND PORTS ON LONG ISLAND SOUND.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently approved its Dredged Material Management Plan which recognizes that open-water disposal of dredged materials is critical to maintaining the viability of channels and harbors in this region. The Plan also outlines alternative options for managing and handling dredged materials, such as wetlands restoration.

SB-78 includes language which explicitly disfavors the open water placement of dredged materials, despite the findings of the Army Corps of Engineers that open water disposal of dredged materials may be done in an environmentally responsible manner and that it is absolutely necessary to maintaining navigable waterways in the northeast.

It is estimated that economic activity in this region will decline by almost 15% if open-space water disposal options are not maintained. This would have severe ramifications for our entire region.

I urge you to reject SB-78.