

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMODORES ASSOCIATION

fccact.org

2/19/2016

To: Environment Committee

Subject: S.B. No. 78

Our organization was founded in 1993 and represents sixteen boating and yacht clubs with over 5,000 members, including more than 1,500 junior sailors and 3,000 adult boaters.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our opposition and objection to Bill No. 78 Concerning the Disposition of Dredged Materials from Certain Harbors and Ports on Long Island Sound.

Based on feedback from our member clubs flag officers and past commodores, we wish to express the following additional considerations:

Boater Safety. Any delay in current and future dredging projects will significantly increase the likelihood of marine accidents due to reductions in maneuverability during collision avoidance operations caused by excessive weather conditions or operational errors.

Environmental Degradation. Alternative transportation of dredged materials to any of the extremely limited upland disposal sites would cause a significant increase in vehicle carbon emissions and degradation of roads and bridges from the hundreds of required trucks.

Cost/Benefit Analysis. An increase in dredging project costs of approximately 300% is anticipated if current open water disposal sites are closed.

DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee has stated “In all these years there is no evidence linking the open water disposal of dredged materials to diminished water quality or damage to natural resources, aquatic life, or public health in Long Island Sound.”

Thank you for the opportunity to present our opposition for this bill. We strongly urge action be taken to defeat this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

John Craine

Chairman

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