

Statement of Kate Mosley
Environment Committee
Senate Bill 78
February 19, 2016

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

My name is Kate Mosley. I reside in Chester and I am here today representing Saybrook Point Marina. 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.

The future of Saybrook Point Inn, Marina & Spa in Old Saybrook, Connecticut is in jeopardy if this bill is passed. This bill establishes a preference for not disposing of dredged material in open water placement sites, which directly contradicts the Dredge Material Management Plan. The DMMP took over 10 years to complete at a cost estimated at \$15 million, and shows that most of today's material is found suitable for open water placement following extensive physical, chemical, and biological testing. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has publically stated their support for the DMMP.

The marine industry in Long Island Sound employs 55,000 people (40,000 employees in Connecticut alone) and has an economic output of nine billion dollars. If open-water placement is no longer an option, these jobs will be lost and the revenue from the Industry will no longer be viable.

Saybrook Point Inn, Marina and Spa employs 400 people and brings in significant tourism dollars. Saybrook Point is a unique entity- there are very few resort hotels with marinas in this area, so there is quite a draw to come to Saybrook Point as it currently stands with the marina. Due to our location at the mouth of the Connecticut River, silt accumulates at a high rate within our basin, causing a significant need for dredging every 3 – 5 years. Without continued dredging, the marina will be forced to close, resulting in \$1.5 million of lost revenue.

Saybrook Point Inn, Spa, and Marina is dedicated to environmental stewardship. The Marina was designated Connecticut's first Clean Marina and was home to the Connecticut River's first waste pump out station. The property invests in the most sustainable practices, including a cogeneration system, multiple EV charging stations, PV solar panels, natural lawns, and much more.

Supporting this bill would ignore the scientific research within the DMMP. It would jeopardize not only the future of Saybrook Point Marina, but the marine industry as a whole within Long Island Sound. It would be devastating to the economy on not only the shoreline, but the state as a whole.

In closing, we have serious concerns with this legislation and would ask that you consider the points I have made here. We appreciate the opportunity to testify today and look forward to working with you on SB 78 in the days and weeks ahead. Thank you.