

Environment Committee
Senate Bill 78
February 19, 2016

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

My name is Matt Kreuzkamp. I reside in Orange and I am writing today in representation of my own interest both personally and professionally as a small business owner. 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.

Personally, I am a recreational boater and have enjoyed access to and use of the Long Island Sound through my entire life. The Sound has shaped who I am since I was a little boy. It is a place I go with family and friends. A place to relax, play and compete. Overall it is magnificent. Through the years, the Sound has only become cleaner, healthier and more vibrant. When we go fishing, we are fortunate to see the physical health of the Sound. It is likewise a truly incredible experience to be sailing when a school of menhaden are being chased by bluefish and the quiet passage of a sailboat through the water is interrupted by the sounds of fish boiling to the surface. I remember as a child when seeing an Osprey was virtually unheard of, now they are commonplace! Without reasonable access to the Sound, I would be a different individual. I do my best to share it with my Nieces and Nephews, just as my parents and my Aunt & Uncle did for me as a child. I hope they will have reasonable access to the Sound when it comes time to share it with their eventual children, nieces and/or nephews. In order for that hope to be a reality we need to maintain affordable and reasonable solutions for the management of sedimentation to our ports and harbors. This relies on practical policies from you for the relocation of dredged materials. Dredging has been and will continue to be a necessary part of managing the Coastal Zone. I hope you will not be manipulated by emotion when making policy. Over the course of my nearly 40 years, the Sound has become cleaner and healthier. As a kid we never saw Osprey, Bald Eagles, Seals, Dolphins, or Whales; weakfish and Striped Bass were seemingly mythological creatures yet they are all part of the current ecosystem of Long Island Sound. All of those environmental successes have occurred while our ports, harbors, rivers and channels have been dredged and those dredged materials were moved to the current relocation sites. Personally I am asking you to preserve reasonable and affordable access to this magnificent space for my family, present and future, to have where we can come together so it can continue to shape who we are and who we will be.

Professionally, I am the 2nd generation owner of a family business. We are a Manufacturer's Representative firm, and our business relies on the success of the recreational boating industry here in the State of Connecticut. We work with most of the Marinas, Boatyards, Yacht Clubs, Boat Service providers, Boat Dealers, Marine Distributors, and Marine Merchants in Connecticut. The majority of these businesses are also multi-generational family businesses and as an industry in whole it is a community. If access to Long Island Sound is compromised, either by shoaling to channels and marina basins or by the added burden of costs above and beyond the already massive costs related to the relocation dredged materials to the established safe and secure sites –it has the potential to unravel an entire community. Please do not allow emotion to trump science and common sense in your rule-making decisions with regard to managing the

coastal zone. Please keep in mind that every family who, as end-users, does business with those providing goods, services or facilities for the recreational marine industry here in CT have similar experiences to what I noted in my personal discussion above.

Access to Long Island Sound and its' tributaries is critical to many business and countless families. The Long Island Sound is a tremendous social resource to our State's community. Compromising access to it, based on emotion rather than proven science and history would be a tragedy. Please do not allow words like "spoils" and "dump" or "disposal" to distract you from making sound decisions for the policies of the relocation of dredged materials for Long Island Sound and its' tributaries. The current sites are geographically located such that they are all reasonably accessible from our State's many harbors, rivers, and creeks. They are in locations where currents allow sediment to stay in place, and the procedures of material placement are in keeping with good stewardship to the environment.

In closing, I have serious concerns with this legislation and ask that you consider the points I have made here. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concern today, I hope you will exercise sound judgement in regard to Senate Bill 78.

Sincerely,

Matt Kreuzkamp
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