

Statement of Paul Barton  
Environment Committee  
Senate Bill 78  
February 19, 2016

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

My name is Paul Barton. I reside in Old Lyme, CT and I am here today representing Harbor One Marina in Old Saybrook, CT. 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.

I am owner and manager of Harbor One Marina located at the mouth of the Connecticut River at Saybrook Point in Old Saybrook, CT. It is necessary for me to do maintenance dredging on a regular basis because Harbor One Marina continually fills in with silt due to the delta effect at the widened mouth of the Connecticut River. The average volume of dredge material is 8,000 cubic yards per year. The cost of maintenance dredging has increased exponentially because the distance that dredge material must be transported has increased. Until now I have been able to dump dredge spoils on Cornfield shoal but due to new environmental rules subsequent dredging will required the transport of spoils to the Central long Island Sound dump site which is 40 miles further. Cost per cubic yard has increased from twelve dollars to thirty four dollars and the cost of upland disposal would be much more and prohibitive. Harbor One Marina was established in 1950 and has served the recreational boating industry providing public access and economic benefits for the town of Old Saybrook and the State of Connecticut. The potential loss of the ability to dump in the waters of Long Island Sound due to the implementation of Senate Bill 78 would make marina operations financially unfeasible.

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.

Paul Barton