



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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S.B. 78: An Act Concerning the Disposition of Dredged Materials from Certain Harbors and Ports on Long Island Sound

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee,

I'm Sen. Art Linares of the 33rd District.

My district is the home of some of the most beautiful natural scenery in Connecticut.

Coastal towns like Westbrook. Old Saybrook. Clinton.

In my district are scores of marinas.

And today, I join with marina owners from my district in **expressing serious concerns about this bill: Bill 78: An Act Concerning the Disposition of Dredged Materials from Certain Harbors and Ports on Long Island Sound.**

The marine trades industry supports more than 7,000 jobs in Connecticut.

But, like many small businesses across Connecticut, our marinas are struggling.

As state legislators, we should be doing all we can to provide these job creators with the **flexibility** they need in order to help them grow and thrive over the long term.

Dredging is the lifeblood of these businesses. Dredging provides access to marinas.

That access is key to keeping our marinas afloat.

Policies which impact that ability to dredge will without a doubt impact the scores of marinas in my district and throughout the shoreline.

I respectfully ask your committee to listen to the marina owners who are raising red flags about this bill.

We all want to move our state forward.

When we say, “Connecticut is open for business” – we want that statement to ring true.

We all want to do no harm to our business environment.

At the same time, we all want to do all we can to protect our environment and our coastline.

We can be pro-business while being pro-environment.

This bill does not meet those standards.

Lastly, I want to point out that the final plan adopted by US Army Corps of Engineers in December addresses this issue. That plan seeks to reuse dredged material whenever possible over open water placement.

I urge rejection this proposal and I thank you for your consideration of what our marinas are saying.