



Statement of Stephen Tagliatela  
Environment Committee  
Senate Bill 78  
February 19, 2016

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

My name is Stephen Tagliatela. I reside in Old Saybrook and I am here today representing my family's business, the 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.

Our future survival as a business in Old Saybrook is in jeopardy. We currently dredge every 3 years to keep our facility operating, and if we were not allowed to dredge due to constraints in removal and disposal of material, we would be forced to shutdown, putting dozens of employees out of work, not too mention shuttering a local economy and devastating a local community.

We are one of many marinas in Old Saybrook and one of hundreds along the Connecticut shoreline affected by the Dredge Material Management Plan.

We not only provide goods and services to our boating community, but we also support many regional, national and international tourists who flock to our shores annually. In addition, we provide significant tax revenue to the local community - whether it's through our employees or boaters who shop, dine and entertain in local businesses or whether it is our boat owners who pay property taxes to the town.

In short, the marine trade industry, as well as the boating community is a driving force in the local area economies for which they are located. Dredging is the lifeblood of our business, and without the proper management plan for removal and disposal of material, we, along with the hundreds of other marinas in Connecticut, would be forced to shutdown.

More than 25 years ago, my mother and father built the Saybrook Point Marina into what is today, which I'm proud to say is Connecticut's first designated Clean Marina. My mother and father actually lived at the marina while developing Saybrook Point Inn & Spa, which is among the town's top employers and one of the community's top economic engines.

Also as one of the region's premier resort destinations, we employ more than 260 hospitality professionals, and have received numerous awards for our best-in-class green practices, including the first Connecticut inn to be named a Certified Energy Hotel in 2007.

As owners of Saybrook Point Inn & Spa, the loss of the Marina would also mean significant reductions in employment at the main inn and spa as \$1.5 million in revenue would be washed away with the closure of our Marina.

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As you know, Connecticut, out of the three subject States in the DMMP, has the greatest dredge requirement. Our State must take the lead insuring navigational access for the future. Access is achieved by maintaining and improving the navigational waters of the LIS region through dredging including those maintained federally and those funded by state and private proponents.

By regulation, the Federal Government is tasked with finding both the most economical and environmentally sound method for maintaining navigational access and sound business practice requires the same for private projects. This plan has determined that open-water placement of dredge material in Long Island Sound meets that standard for over three-quarters of the anticipated material.

The research has shown that most of today's material is found suitable for open water placement following extensive physical, chemical and biological testing. Other alternatives for varying degrees of dredge material have been determined and are included in The Plan.

The existing open-water placement locations, Western, Central, Cornfield Shoals and New London have all proven to provide the most economically viable placement locations for the projects from their geographic regions without adversely affecting Long Island Sound. These placement sites should be designated to remain open by the EPA as a result of the extensive research completed in this Plan.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has publicly stated their support for the DMMP. This (DMMP) has taken ten years to complete at a cost estimated at \$15 million. No Action on this Plan will result in skyrocketing dredging costs, the closure of the LIS open- water placement locations within a year's time, fewer maintained ports and harbors, significant reduction in access all of which will substantially impair the regional economy.

The time to act is now, and we ask that you make the right decision and enable us to continue to operate in our local community.

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement supports the direction of Open-water disposal after considerable testing. Cost effective and reasonable disposal options must be maintained. No Action is not an alternative – our facility, much like others in Connecticut, will be significantly impacted in one-years time if no-action is taken. And from there, the local community will begin to feel its negative impact.

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.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Tagliatela  
Managing Partner  
Saybrook Point Inn & Spa  
Saybrook Point Marina