



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

**SENATOR ART LINARES**  
THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

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INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 24, 2016

In Opposition to:

S.B. No. 139 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP.

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

I'm Sen. Art Linares of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District.

My district is home to many avid anglers.

From the majestic Connecticut River to beautiful lakes and ponds to the incomparable Long Island Sound, the region I represent provides an abundance of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and to engage in a host of recreational pastimes.

And chief among those pastimes is fishing.

The bill before you would impact those who fish for trout in Connecticut by adding an up to \$10 cost for a trout stamp.

It represents yet another added cost on the public, and that cost comes in addition to the cost of a normal fishing license.

I know that I speak for many sportsmen in my district when I urge you to reject this proposal.

Our state should be focused making long-term structural changes to our state budget in order to put Connecticut back on a sustainable, predictable path. Instead, we continue to see proposals like this one – proposals which seek to nickel and dime state residents in order to generate additional fees and revenue.

To put it in fishing terms, this is a bill that should be thrown back.