

February 23, 2016

Attn: Chairs and Members of the Environment Committee

Re: DEEP Raised Bill 141

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, and members of the Environment Committee:

My appreciation for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding DEEP Proposed Raised Bill # 141 and state my objection to its passage. In having been briefed on the many particulars of the Bill and studied its various aspects, I believe DEEP's recommended changes to the Inland/Wetlands Act, and in particular to **Section 22a-42d Revocation of Authority to Regulate Wetlands and Sec 22a-43 Appeals** dilutes the protective expertise and oversight that towns and members of Inland/Wetlands Commissions have come to rely on and value from DEEP. Further, I view any constriction of DEEP's oversight as an injustice to town commissioners, the public, and to the dedicated work that went into establishing the landmark Inland Wetlands Act.

Moreover, a Bill of this magnitude affects 171 I/W commissioners and their ability to carry out their duties and has the potential to diminish public confidence and perception of the State's protection of invaluable inland and wetlands. In my view, DEEP Bill #141 has the possibility of far too many ramifications to inland and wetlands, towns, and the entire state of CT.

For many years, I've served on various Environment Boards and Commissions. This testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a concerned citizen who has valued and depended on DEEP. Consequently, I ask that the Bill not be approved.

Cordially,
Ann Beaudin
1009 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095