

PAN AM SOUTHERN LLC

1700 IRON HORSE PARK
NORTH BILLIERCA, MA 01862-1681

March 10, 2016

To: The Committee on the Environment
RE: Opposition to SB 385

Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis and members of the Committee on the Environment:

On behalf of Pan Am Sothern (PAS), I appreciate having this opportunity to submit testimony opposing SB 385. PAS has over 30 miles of track within the State of Connecticut, serves over eleven customers and connects with three other railroads, one being a class 1 railroad. PAS's commitment to safety is our number one priority and passing bill No. 385 would hinder our commitment.

Currently there are existing Federal Regulations in effect requiring railroads to control vegetation. The Federal Railroad Administration recognizes the necessity to provide proper drainage, maintain necessary clearance for rolling stock, allow for proper visual inspections of railroad structures, and maintain proper sight clearances at crossing thereby providing safety for railroad employees as well as the general public. These federal regulations are extensive, national in scope and designed to prevent a patchwork of regulation in the multiple states and localities through which railroads operate.

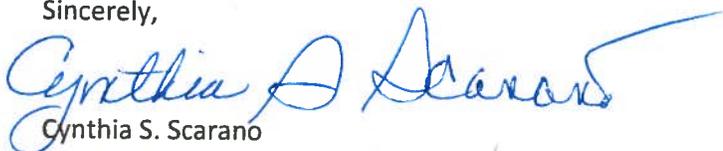
Pan Am Southern manages vegetation in an environmentally responsible manner. The application of weed spray has to be done on a seasonal basis to be effective. The dates of application vary due to weather conditions and operating schedules. The work is done by a responsible licensed contractor accompanied by a qualified Pan Am employee.

The notice requirement set forth in the proposed legislation would not only be burdensome for Railroads but in some circumstances impossible. The regulation would not cause a change or improvement to the application but rather an impact both economically as well as logistically that will make it impossible to utilize its vegetation control plan. In effect, the legislation will be negatively impacting safety and the environment as opposed to environmentally improving the application.

For the reasons and concerns outlined above, Pan Am Sothern opposes SB 385.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,



Cynthia S. Scarano

Executive Vice President Pan Am Railways