

**Testimony of Nancy DiNardo submitted to the Executive and  
Legislative Nominations Committee  
February 11, 2016**

Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor, and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Nancy DiNardo and it is an honor and a privilege to be appointed to the Connecticut Port Authority Board of Directors by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

I would like to thank this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak about my desire to serve on the Port Authority Board of Directors.

I worked in the Bridgeport Public Schools for thirty years, first as an elementary teacher, then as a school psychologist, and then 16 years as the Director of Psychological Services. After retiring from education, I volunteered at the Democratic State Party before becoming chairwoman in 2005. I stepped down as chair last year and I am currently the vice chair of the Party. I also served as chair of Trumbull Democratic Town Committee for 30 years, before stepping down in 2014.

As a result of my commitment to serving, I have striven to achieve a leadership position in my time spent serving the Democratic Party. I serve on the Executive Committee of the Association of State Party Chairs and the Democratic National Committee – and was elected by my peers up and down the East Coast as the Chair of the Eastern Regional Caucus of the Democratic National Committee, a post on which I have served since 2010. It has given me the opportunity to network with other party and elected leaders in our neighboring states. As a result of my national engagement, I have had exposure to a great deal of the issues being discussed in our region.

But my commitment lies at home, serving in local government and for non-profit organizations here at home.

In Trumbull, I served on the Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Health and the Police Commission. I also served as an Emergency Medical Technician for the Trumbull Emergency Medical Service for 12 years. During part of that time, I was the assistant to the executive director of TEMS. While on the Board of Health, I served on a committee to develop a Bridgeport area hospice program. I am also on the board of directors at Griffin Hospital where I am on the Quality Assurance and the Development Fund Committees.

I am honored by the Governor's appointment because I believe this is a critical opportunity for us to strengthen our port system, and this Board will govern this new quasi-public agency to facilitate the development of the state's ports and maritime economy. I want to commend the Transportation Committee for the two years that they spent collaborating across the aisle on making this a reality;

especially Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, and former Representative Scribner, as well as others here today from the Transportation Committee who helped champion this legislation in 2014.

This is particularly important at a time when the legislature is considering plans on how to make major investments to transform our state's transportation system. We know well that transportation is of paramount importance to our residents and our businesses, and our ports should be an important factor in that conversation.

As an agency, we need to maximize the economic potential of our ports. With a new structure like the Connecticut Port Authority, we will be poised to attract investment, secure private investments, in addition to state and federal funding. But just importantly, with one agency focused on our ports – we can take advantage of the studies that have been commissioned by this legislature in conjunction with DECD and DOT, and execute upon a comprehensive strategy to improve our maritime economy.

As we all know, currently ships deliver cargo to the ports of New York and New Jersey and their products are brought to Connecticut by trucks on I-95, but with smart and strategic investments in infrastructure – Connecticut's ports will attract business. This will undoubtedly increase jobs, improve our economy and decrease the burdens on our highways.

If confirmed, I will be excited to continue my decades long pursuit of public service. Having worked in local government, alongside state and federal elected officials. I have always had the desire to lead, and I believe that this will be a unique opportunity to which I can commit myself in the coming years. Like all of you sitting before me, I know how important it is to serve and volunteer for Boards and Commissions, and recognize the dedication needed from newly appointed Board Members as we build this agency. And I know I am up for this task.

I thank you for your time and look forward to serving on this Board and helping to re-position Connecticut's maritime economy and realize the full potential of Connecticut's port system.