



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 3, 2016  
Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

**Senate Bill No. 20 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE RATIO OF ALCOHOL IN THE BLOOD FOR CARRYING A FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED AND FOR HUNTING WHILE INTOXICATED**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 20. AN ACT CONCERNING THE RATIO OF ALCOHOL IN THE BLOOD FOR CARRYING A FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED AND FOR HUNTING WHILE INTOXICATED.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

The Governor's proposal, which we strongly support, would reduce the ratio of alcohol in the blood from .10 to .08 for the offense of carrying a firearm while intoxicated and for hunting while intoxicated. This proposal would make the ratio of alcohol in the blood for these offenses consistent with the ratio of alcohol in the blood for the offense of operating a motor vehicle under the influence and operating a vessel (i.e., a motor boat) under the influence. DEEP strongly supports this change that reduces the allowable ratio of alcohol in the blood when possessing firearms and hunting. This change also creates consistency with other statutes relating to alcohol routinely enforced by DEEP's Environmental Conservation Police Officers. Officers have been trained to recognize, detect and test for persons operating motor vehicles and vessels under the influence of alcohol to a standard of .08 ratio of alcohol in the blood and this standard would be enforceable for possession of firearms while intoxicated and hunting while intoxicated with no additional training.

DEEP also supports the change that eliminates the violation of impaired hunting for previous violators. This section is difficult to enforce due to the fact that officers need criminal conviction history in the field when making a determination on whether to take someone into custody for a blood alcohol content of less than .10 but more than .07.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports **Senate Bill No. 20 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE RATIO OF ALCOHOL IN THE BLOOD FOR CARRYING A FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED AND FOR HUNTING WHILE INTOXICATED** and looks forward to taking this step to ensure public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or

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