



March 1, 2016

Senator Clark J. Chapin, Co-Chair  
Representative Brian Becker, Co-Chair  
Regulations Review Committee, Room 011  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: *Proposed Amendment Concerning Parking Fees at Connecticut State Parks***

Dear Senator Chapin and Representative Becker:

Pursuant to section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit for your consideration and approval the enclosed proposal to amend the Department's regulation concerning the fee charged for vehicle parking at Connecticut State Parks.

This regulatory proposal is intended to simplify the collection of applicable parking fees at Connecticut State Parks where a parking fee is charged. As background, the state budget approved last session (Section 75 of PA 15-244), included a new provision that requires the collection of sales tax for parking fees at state parks. The addition of sales tax to the parking fees resulted in the need for all cash transactions to include coins, for the first time. This added significantly to the transaction times for visitors, and to the logistical support needed for our parks' cash handling operations. This proposal would "round up" the parking fees to the next whole dollar, and be inclusive of the sales tax, as a way to speed transactions, and limit the traffic back-ups that can occur at our park entrances. The proposed regulation also makes technical and conforming changes to the existing regulation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and if there are any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Rob LaFrance, the Department's Legislative Liaison, at (860) 424-3401 or Tom Tyler, Director of Connecticut State Parks at (860) 424-3099. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan K. Whalen".

Susan K. Whalen, Deputy Commissioner