Dear Co-Chair, Rep. Mike Demicco,

Co-Chair, Sen. Christine Cohen,

Ranking Member, Rep. Stephen Harding and

Ranking Member, Sen. Craig Miner....

I am writing to express my support for HYPERLINK "https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB-5312”HB 5312 AN ACT CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WITHIN UTILITY PROTECTION ZONES.

I believe this bill provides necessary measures which will increase oversight and accountability of the electric utility companies providing important consumer protection benefits to the residents of Connecticut.

I support the following:

1. Towns must be notified at least 2 weeks before work is scheduled to be performed. (lines 55-59) This gives the towns time to evaluate the tree(s) in advance and speak to property owners.

2. Property owners will receive a tear-off satisfaction survey that can be returned to the Public Utilities Regulatory (lines 68-71) This provides for accountability and should result in high quality tree work that the property owner requested because the electric companies do not want to have to justify their work to PURA.

3. If the property owner objects to the work that the electric company or subcontractor is proposing, the property owner can request a consultation with the tree warden, an arborist designated by the municipality or the Commissioner of Transportation, as appropriate, (better oversight and accountability) (lines 79-81)

4. The abutting property owner has the right to be present when the work is being done. But they must contact the utility or utility's subcontractor at the provided contact telephone number to arrange to be present. (lines 81-85)

***HAT requested that another box be added to the door hangar, that the property owner could check off, to notify the electric company that they wanted to be present when the work was performed. I believe that requiring the property owner to contact the electric company rather than checking off a box on the form creates the potential for miscommunication. If you agree, please address this in your testimony.
5. If the property owner wants an arborist to evaluate the pruning or removal to be performed, the utility must provide all plans, records and information so the evaluation can occur. (accountability) (lines 93-96)

6. Property owner is notified when the work is completed. (lines 107-109) This is valuable information to all who are having work done but especially important to property owners who arranged to be present during the work.

Sincerely,

Phil Cronan

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