Dear Honorable Members of the Environmental Committee,

Please accept my testimony supporting HB-6429, AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPALITIES COMBATING GYPSY MOTH AND EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTATIONS.

Emerald Ash borer has been called an extinction level event for the Ash tree in Connecticut. I have personally needed to remove two huge Ash trees from my property in the last several years. Both trees died suddenly and began raining huge branches down and caused a very unsafe condition.

In my town, Monroe, the local Tree Warden has informed me that in 2018 the Town of Monroe removed 227 trees of which 70% were Ash. He also informed me that the town works with Eversource on tree removal and that of the 1428 trees removed by Eversource in 2018 70% were Ash.

Here is the link to the Connecticut DEEP with information on the spread of the infestation of Emerald Ash borer as well as economic impact.


Offering Municipalities grants to remove dead and dying Ash trees makes sense. The trees along public rights of way represent a clear and present danger to human life and the power grid.

Please support HB 6429

Thank You

Patrick O’Hara

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