

SENATOR CATHY OSTEN

Nineteenth District

Legislative Office Building

Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Tel. 860-240-0579

Toll-free 1-800-842-1420

www.senatedems.ct.gov/Osten



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Appropriations Committee

Vice Chair
Labor & Public Employees Committee
Public Safety & Security Committee

Member
Legislative Management Committee
Regulation Review Committee
Transportation Committee
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Environment Committee

March 6, 2020

LOB 2B 10:30 AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 295

*An Act Concerning the Selection of Caterers
for Individuals who Rent State-Owned Venues*

Chairwoman Cohen, Chairman Demicco, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 295, *An Act Concerning The Selection Of Caterers For Individuals Who Rent State-Owned Venues*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague. I'd like to thank the chairs for considering this important legislation for the second consecutive session.

As you may know, this issue was first brought to my attention by one of my constituents, who was forced to move her wedding from Rocky Neck State Park after the caterer she hired was rejected by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), despite having placed a large, non-refundable deposit to rent the state park.

While I am supportive of some of the changes made in this legislation, I respectfully request that you consider amending subsection (a) by removing everything on line 32 after the comma to line 37 and amending subsection (b) by removing everything on line 57 after the comma to line 61. A 12-month pre-notification requirement is overly onerous to individuals and businesses alike. Under the bill as currently drafted, a company who wishes to reserve the pavilion at Rocky Neck for their 2020 summer picnic would have to have notified DEEP last year.

I simply do not understand why our state's government creates unnecessary barriers to success for in-state companies, who wish to provide services to the public, at a public facility, for a reasonable and competitive price. Giving individuals who rent state-owned venues more freedom to select caterers or other vendors is simply the right thing to do. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 295 and encourage you to adopt my amendment. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.