

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5602

AN ACT PROHIBITING HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMERCIAL SEISMIC

**Title:** SURVEYING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION.

**Vote Date:** March 3, 2023

**Vote Action:** JF

**PH Date:** 2/15/2023

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Environment Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To protect marine ecosystems and fishing industries from high frequency seismic surveying.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection:** Commissioner Dykes testified in support of the bill and its objective. DEEP agrees that fossil fuel production is incompatible with existing uses of the state's coastal waters and not in its best interest. Seismic mapping using high frequency sound waves can negatively impact marine mammals. DEEP does support prohibiting seismic mapping we do recognize that seafloor mapping technologies may be necessary to achieve environmentally beneficial uses in other contexts.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director, Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs.**

On behalf of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs that supports a prohibition on seismic mapping and exploratory drilling. Coastal communities in Connecticut depend heavily on Long Island Sound and there is no reason to start now as we transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable sources of energy.

**Ann Gadwah, Outreach Organizer, Sierra Club Connecticut:**

The Sierra Club supports the bill. Coastal Communities rely on the sound for fishing and tourism and oil and gas exploration would be extremely harmful.

**Cary Lynch, Climate-Energy Policy Manager, The Nature Conservancy:**

The Nature Conservancy works toward preserving the environment and biodiversity of coastal Connecticut, but drilling and seismic surveying pose a risk to the coastal environment and ecosystem.

**Caroline Miller:**

As a concerned citizen it is important to pass legislation to prohibit seismic testing that has a dramatic negative impact on our fragile marine eco system.

**Christine O'Neill:**

This seismic activity amounts to literal underwater explosions. This practice damages underwater ecosystems and feeds our lethal addiction to fossil fuels.

**Jamila Vandler:**

Seismic testing has been proven to damage and kill marine life causing untold damage to the ecosystem.

**The following also testified in support of the bill:**

Jason Hine, The Ditty Bag

Shirley McCarthy

Anne Schmidt

Karen Schnitzer

Ricard Waser

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: March 3, 2023**