

**Name:** David Kooris

**Title:** Board Chair

**Organization or Agency:** CT Port Authority

**Topic:** HB05047 - AA IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Supports

**Testimony:**

Members of the Appropriations Committee of the CT General Assembly,

I am submitting comment today as an individual who has had the distinct privilege of serving as the Board Chair for the CT Port Authority for the past 4 years and 8 months. I am not writing on behalf of the Board of the CT Port Authority which, understandably, holds a diverse range of opinions on proposed bill HB05047.

From the time I became Acting Chair in the summer of 2019, I have worked closely with senior members of the Lamont administration to build the capacity necessary to achieve the Authority's mission. From the start, we recognized the Port Authority would only ever grow to be an organization of limited size and would inevitably be dependent on external support to piece together the complete team and administrative apparatus to reach its lofty goals.

Working most closely with OPM, we have hired a small, but excellent staff team, adopted the policies and procedures that subsequently governed the procurement of external consultants to supplement staff expertise (e.g. legal, IT, communications), and entered into multiple Memorandums of Agreement with other quasi-public and state agencies for other support roles (e.g. HR, construction procurement).

For years, we have brainstormed as to whether there might be a way to consolidate this support and enable the Port Authority to rely on one entity to fill these roles that couldn't be directly performed by its limited staff.

I commend the Governor for continuing to demonstrate his support for the Port Authority and continuing to proactively propose solutions to the challenges of governance that are so important to achieving the objectives of government. This proposal is a clear sign of his continued leadership regarding the Port Authority's future.

I am also proud of the fact that the financials and operations of the Port Authority are unquestionably sound, putting the organization in a position to be considered to be taken on by another entity without serious concern. I view this as a testament of the hard work of the Board and staff over these last several years.

While details will certainly evolve over the remainder of this legislative session and the coming years to ensure that the priorities of the Maritime industry are heard, and advanced even within a larger organization, capitalizing on the depth of operational expertise of a large and established quasi-governmental entity while maintaining the Port Authority's existing staff and a level of independence makes the Airport Authority a logical partner for the Port Authority.

David Kooris