



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR L. SCOTT FRANTZ

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

TOLL FREE: 800-842-1421
OFFICE: 860-240-8800
FAX: 860-240-8306
E-Mail: Scott.Frantz@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER

COMMERCE COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

MEMBER

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony Sen. Frantz in support of SB 174 Environment Committee Public Hearing January 30, 2013

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin and Representative Shaban. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning in favor of **SB 174, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Bamboo Stakes to Mark Shellfish Beds in Long Island Sound.**

Along our shores, buoyed bamboo stakes are used to identify the borders of commercial shellfish beds in the Long Island Sound. The Greenwich Shellfish Commission brought to my attention the hazards that this antiquated marking system poses to the boating community. Many shellfishing craft operators now use GPS and chart plotter technology to identify shellfish beds and consider the use of bamboo stakes to be outdated and unnecessary. Many boaters consider buoyed stakes to be a hazard, especially at night when they cannot be seen. If they are broken, these stakes can leave a very sharp spear-like point, oftentimes just below the surface of the water.

SB 174 eliminates the usage of bamboo staking for shellfish beds, providing safer waters for everyone. This is a simple change in our statutes, especially since there are already other affordable means to identify shellfish beds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

L. Scott Frantz
State Senator – 36th District