



March 3, 2021

To Members of The Science and Technology Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council. A group comprised of professionals from various organizations throughout the state. The Council has a mission to educate people on the benefits of trees and how they positively impact quality of life.

As Chair of the organization, I would like to oppose HB950 as presented. We understand Eversource's concerns for reliable electricity, and share those concerns, but do not agree with taking authority away from the Tree Wardens and abutting property owners. This bill would also establish a conflict with the designated responsibility of the Tree Wardens who are given care and control of municipal trees, as presented in Section 23-59, which states "the town or borough Tree Warden, shall have the care and control of all trees and shrubs, in whole or in part, within the limits of any public road or grounds and within the limits of his town or borough".

Thank you for your consideration regarding the seriousness of the impacts that this would pose.

Sincerely,

Heather Dionne

City Forester for the City of Hartford

Chair of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council