

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

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We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees



Organized August 16, 1922

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April 26, 2021

Dear Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica and Representative Ferraro,

We, the Board of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, are writing to express our opposition to SB 950 as written. Our concern is that we believe the bill could lead to the harm of valuable roadside trees in Connecticut. We understand that the purpose of the bill is to encourage greater reliability in electrical distribution. However, we believe that this bill fundamentally misunderstands the role that arboriculture can play in proper tree management, including tree risk in relationship to electrical reliability. We also feel that this bill fails to consider the voices of concerned individuals regarding the care and control of the trees in question.

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association is an educational and scientific association whose membership includes some 840 individuals who care for trees in various ways. Our membership consists of professional arborists, scientists, educators, tree advocates and interested members of the public; nearly three-quarters of our membership is licensed arborists. The stated purpose of CTPA includes: (a) to promote the protection and care of trees in Connecticut and (b) to advocate for beneficial arboreal legislation and adequate tree planting and care appropriations by the state, cities and towns of Connecticut. Our tag line is that "We advance the care of Connecticut's trees."

Trees contribute enormously to the local environment. Trees can be assessed, monitored and cared for in accordance with an understanding of the scientific principles of tree care. That is the fundamental principle upon which arboriculture is based.

Connecticut has a good system for caring for its roadside trees, time-tested over 100 years for the Arborist Law and 120 years for the Tree Wardens Law. Currently, municipally appointed tree wardens have responsibility for the care and control of public trees. They have an understanding of how to properly evaluate trees and decide what actions to take in order to mitigate the risks associated with those trees. Additionally as public officials of their towns, they speak as representatives of the people in their individual towns. In deciding what to do about roadside trees, it is important that we keep all relevant parties engaged. This includes those who best understand the importance of trees and who know how to assess the individual tree, as well as those who live most closely to these trees. This bill, as written, would remove those viewpoints from this process.

Respectfully,

Patrick Flynn, President of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.
with The Board of Directors