

PA 11-162

SB0227

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2011

So I'll just conclude by saying I urge the members of this Committee to support Raised Bill 1114 so that the DEP's jurisdiction along the shore can be readily established and citizens of the state won't have to guess as to where or whether an activity will be regulated by the DEP. Thank you. I apologize for going over.

REP. ROY: No problem. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you very much.

JOHN CASEY: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, all three of you for coming up and helping us learn. With that, we will go to our next speaker, Steven Webner, who's here to speak on Bill 227, Number 12 on our agenda.

STEVE WEBNER: Thank you very much, Representative Roy and Committee. I'm Steve Webner, Town Manager of the Town of Tolland, and I thank you for hearing Senate Bill 227, which would require that the Department of Environmental Protection when issuing consent orders and requiring remedial action utilize the standards in place at the time the order is issued to determine future compliance.

In 1989 Pollution Abatement Order Number 4777 was issued by the Department of DEP against the Town of Tolland. This involved underground gas tanks that were found to be leaking at our highway garage site.

The tanks were removed in 1989 and replaced with newer double-walled units. Air sparging and vapor extraction wells were installed as well as some 27 monitoring wells throughout the area of concern.

The air sparging and vapor extraction system was active from November, 1989 to September, 1997 and recovered the equivalent of 382 gallons of gasoline. During the last year of activity, the system recovered less than one-half pint of gasoline and a decision was made in conjunction with DEP to shut the system down.

The analysis of ground water at the site over time indicates that the limited number of pollutants remaining is diminishing but the town has never been able to meet the limits of the standards in place at the time the test results are produced.

These limits are not the same as those in place in 1989 and had they been, the town would have satisfied the requirements of the order. The impact is that after some 20 years and more than \$750,000 expended, we have not achieved clean criteria.

Most recently, through our consultants, we have submitted a remedial action work plan and the latest efforts to meet the remediation requirement are via insitu chemical oxidation. Tests results related to this activity will be reported to DEP next week and we are hopeful that we will finally be able to demonstrate levels of contamination have been reduced to the lowest levels possible.

The town certainly understands the need to protect the environment, but no town should be put in a position of having to achieve compliance with a moving target with no certainty as to the end result.

My comments in no way reflect negatively on the staff of DEP, but on the process in place, which requires that they adhere to standards in place

today and not those in effect at the time the consent order is issued.

Again, I thank you for hearing this matter and allowing me to speak.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any questions or comments from members of the Committee? You're all set. Thank you very much.

We will now move on to Item 14, Senate Bill 1113 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL TANK INSURANCE ACCOUNT. Our first speaker will be Michael Fox, followed by Doug Hendel.

MICHAEL FOX: Good afternoon, Representative Roy, members of the Committee. My name is Michael Fox. I am the Executive Director of the Gasoline and Automotive Service Dealers of America, the trade association whose members are responsible for pumping 60 percent of the 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline sold in Connecticut.

I have also been for approximately the last six years, a volunteer member of the Connecticut Underground Tank Review Board, so I come to you in both capacities.

I come before you today to support Senate Bill 1113 and say that we need to work forward with the Committee and with members of the DEP on some language changes.

As many of you may be aware, in 1980, the Connecticut Underground Tank Fund was created and that fund was put together and funded by the gross receipts tax. At the time the tax was implemented it was about one percent. Now it's seven percent.

Many of you may not know this, but as of February 1st, the gross receipts tax has already gone up

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COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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TESTIMONY
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
March 7, 2011

To Chairmen Ed Meyer, Richard Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 500 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

HB 6263 AAC The Transition from the Ten Mill Program

Rivers Alliance supports this bill and the testimony of Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Forested land is the most important natural purifier of water. The state should encourage its preservation by allowing transfer of tax reductions from the old ten mill program to the current 490 program without penalty.

HB 66503 AAC Conservation District Funding

This bill aims to reinstate dedicated revenue for the Conservation Districts. Rivers Alliance supports ample and stable funding for the districts. Their expert advice to towns provides consistency in stormwater management and wetlands permitting. They potentially could play a key role in regional integration of conservation policies and practices relating to soil and water. Their important contributions are sometimes not understood, and their funding repeatedly has been threatened.

HB6503

SB205

SB227

SB204

HB 6505 AAC Stream Flow Regulations

This bill clarifies that PA 05-142 was intended to provide the state's rivers and streams protection from excessive withdrawals whether by damming, pumping, siphoning, or other means. Rivers Alliance believes this clarification is not legally necessary given the language of the Act. Moreover groundwater regulation has been

SB 205 AAC Requiring Certain Thermostat Manufacturers to Pay Incentives for the Return of Mercury Thermostats

The principle that manufacturer and distributors should be responsible for taking back waste associated with their products is becoming more widely accepted. (In Connecticut, we have been looking at beverage bottles, paint cans, retail bags, and so forth.) Rivers Alliance is especially concerned that mercury be handled safely. *All* rivers in our state fail the federal Clean Water Act standard for fishable and swimmable waters, because fish from *all* tested streams have mercury in their bodies (and often PCBs). We invest in fisheries and then we have to invest in fish advisories telling people to be careful eating the fish that we nurture and that they catch because mercury is a deadly toxin. It is also a valuable metal, so it ought to be profitable to recycle. I hope this bill helps. I do not know if \$5 is too or high or too low or just right as a reward for returning the old thermostats.

SB 227 AAC Concerning Remediation Standards under a Consent Order

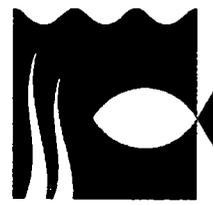
Possibly this bill is intended to address a specific misuse of authority, and superficially it sounds fair. But there are massively contaminated sites in this state, with groundwater plumes going all over the place. Cleanup can be delayed for decades for a range of reasons. In that time, the state's knowledge of what is on site and what the health risks are can change. So I ask the committee to exercise caution on this proposed legislation.

SB 204 AA Exempting the White Memorial Foundation from Certain DEP Requirements

White Memorial has taken many good steps and precautions at considerable expense to manage the wastewater on its property prudently. The executive director, Keith Cudworth, has given Rivers Alliance generous time explaining the unique wastewater challenges at the Foundation and their approach to solving them. But we do not support this bill as written. It would apply to any conservation organization owning more than 3,000 acres. This would include a fair number of organizations, with various facilities on their properties, such as farms and educational centers. Just quickly checking two land trusts in and near my own town, Weantinoge Heritage Trust conserves more than 9,000 acres (it may be the state's largest land trust) and the little Roxbury Land Trust conserves more than 3,500 acres. Granted, some of the conserved land is in easements, not owned outright, this gives an idea of who might be covered. A much better approach, I believe, would be to look at the agreement that White Memorial has with the local health district and to use that as the basis for a more limited exemption. The laws governing subsurface sewage disposal are



**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



Save the Sound®
A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound
Before the Environment Committee**

Submitted by Jessica Morowitz, Legal Fellow
March 7, 2011

Regarding:

H.B. 6507, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS
S.B. 227, AN ACT CONCERNING REMEDIATION STANDARDS UNDER A CONSENT
ORDER

H.B. 6505, AN ACT CONCERNING STREAM FLOW REGULATIONS
S.B. 1114, AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF TIDAL WETLANDS AND THE
HIGH TIDE LINE

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is Connecticut's non-profit environmental advocate with over 5,700 members statewide. For over thirty years, CFE has fought to protect and preserve Connecticut's health and environment. Save the Sound is a regional program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment dedicated to the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound.

H.B. 6507:

CFE opposes H.B. 6507, An Act Concerning Water Quality Certification Applications, because it does not provide appropriate opportunities for public participation. Unless the Committee modifies the bill to include opportunities for public participation, CFE asks the Committee to reject this bill.

As written, the bill provides "applicants" with the right to request a hearing on the application. It does not allow members of the public who may be impacted by the commissioner's decision a similar opportunity to request a hearing. In addition, the bill provides an "applicant" who is aggrieved by the commissioner's final decision a right to appeal that decision to the Superior Court. Again, the bill does not provide a member of the public who may also be aggrieved by the commissioner's final decision a right to appeal that decision to the Superior Court.

The right of the public to request a hearing on such applications and ultimately appeal the decision if aggrieved is important and can be valuable in helping the department to reach an informed decision. There is no question that persons other than the applicant may be aggrieved by inappropriate activities that have environmental consequences. Connecticut has a long history of allowing hearings and appeals not just for applicants, but for persons that are aggrieved by environmental and land use decisions. There is no reason to depart from this longstanding tradition.

S.B. 227:

CFE opposes S.B. 227, An Act Concerning Remediation Standards Under a Consent Order. CFE does not see the need for such a bill at this time. It is unclear exactly what this bill seeks to accomplish, because currently consent orders can only be modified if both parties to the order agree to such modification. Therefore, the bill seemingly offers no clarification and is unnecessary. In addition, CFE is unaware of any proposed changes to the remediation standards that might impact projects already underway and nearing completion. Moreover, when the department did propose changes a few years ago, it included a transition provision that would have covered such projects so that a project that was near completion would not be required to comply with the new standards but rather the standards that were in place and agreed upon when the parties entered into the consent order. Accordingly, CFE asks the Committee to reject S.B. 227, An Act Concerning Remediation Standards Under a Consent Order.

H.B. 6505:

CFE supports H.B. 6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations. H.B. 6505 seeks to clarify that stream flow regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection should regulate groundwater. While CFE believes that the current statute already includes groundwater, CFE is also aware that the chairs of the regulations review committee asked this committee to introduce legislation to make that explicitly clear, and that is what H.B. 6505 seeks to do. This bill does not and should not be seen as affecting the process underway related to the surface water regulations and should not require that process to start over. Again, this bill simply seeks to clarify and make explicitly clear that the department should also develop such regulations related to groundwater. Therefore, CFE urges the Committee to vote favorably on H.B. 6505, An Act Concerning Stream Flow Regulations.

S.B. 1114:

Save the Sound opposes S.B. 1114, An Act Revising the Definition of Tidal Wetlands and the High Tide Line. S.B. 1114 seeks to change the definition of the high tide line to use the elevation of the Mean Higher High Water as contained in the 2001 tidal epoch approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Using this approach sets the high tide line at a lower elevation, which effectively acts as a roll back on coastal permitting jurisdiction. In addition, this bill would fix that location at the current tidal epoch thus not allowing for future adjustment in accordance with sea level rise. For the above reasons, Save the Sound urges the Committee to reject S.B. 1114, An Act Revising the Definition of Tidal Wetlands and the High Tide Line. Accordingly

CFE and Save the Sound thank the Committee for its attention to these matters.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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Please proceed, sir.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

And if I could, I'd like to read you the Calendar
and bill numbers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, please proceed.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

The first is Calendar 99, House Bill 6429.
Calendar 331, Senate Bill 980. Calendar 399, Senate
Bill 883. Calendar 439, House Bill 6632. Calendar
476, House bill 6387. Calendar 503, Senate Bill 1110.
Calendar 524, Senate Bill 1153. Calendar 565, Senate
Bill 1083. Calendar 585, Senate Bill 212. Calendar SB227
586, Senate Bill 38. And Calendar 604, Senate Bill
396.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I -- just as a heads up to
the rest of the Chamber, there will be other bills
added to this Consent Calendar at this point which
require amendments and those amendments will be called
and then added also to the Consent Calendar. Thank
you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Sharkey.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This represents our first Consent Calendar of the evening and I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Will the Clerk please read through the numbers on the Consent Calendar for the Chamber's edification, please.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 99, House Bill 6429. Calendar 331, Senate Bill 980. Calendar 399, Senate Bill 883. Calendar 439, House Bill 6632. Calendar 503, Senate Bill 1110. Calendar 585, Senate Bill 212. Calendar 586, Senate Bill 227. Calendar 491, Senate Bill 799. Calendar 535, Senate Bill 1116. Calendar 568, Senate Bill Number 1138. Calendar 637, Senate Bill 1160. Calendar 569, Senate Bill 1199. Calendar 616, Senate Bill 973. Calendar 583, Senate Bill 98. And Calendar 517, Senate Bill

SB1062

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

The question before us is on passage of the bills on today's -- Consent Calendar. Will you remark? If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House, members take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting today's Consent Calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, Clerk will take a tally. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar,

Total Number voting 148

Necessary for passage 75

Those voting Yea 148

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 3

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Consent Calendar is passed.

Representative Sharkey, you have the floor, sir.

Is there business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

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items, go, at this time, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 35, Calendar Number 215, File
Number 328, Senate Bill 227, AN ACT CONCERNING
REMEDICATION STANDARDS UNDER A CONSENT ORDER,
Favorable Report on the Committee on Environment
and Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Mr. President, good evening.

I move acceptance of the Committees Joint
and Favorable Report and move passage of this
bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes, please. Colleagues, the Town of
Tolland, in Senator Guglielmo's district,
encountered a horrible situation. It entered
into a consent order with the Department of
Environmental Protection, and the Department

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appears to have decided, unilaterally, to modify that Consent Order.

And Senator Guglielmo and the First Selectman of Tolland came to the Environment Committee and said we need to remedy this. And so all this bill does is it says that if DEP has entered into a consent order, with another party and it wants to modify that consent order in any way, terminate it, amend it, or whatever, it needs the consent of both parties. That's what this bill does. It's as simple as that. It is fairness and justice in the extreme. And I urge its passage.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just wanted to, first of all, thank Senator Meyer. You've been very helpful. It would not happen -- obviously, would not have happened without his assistance. And he explained it very well. It addresses a problem.

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Actually, for the little Town of Tolland, it started in 1988. They had a Consent Order on a highway garage, you know, they -- they were at fault. They understood that. And they went along with the cleanup. And then the monitoring wells were put in. And then in the meantime, actually -- they actually put city water in. So the issue is pretty moot at this point, because no one -- no residents were using this water, but yet this went on until, really, 2010. And so you're talking about a small town.

And what would happen is every time they'd meet the goalpost set up, new science would come along. And they'd say, well, we should test for this. And we should test for that. So, actually, the goalpost kept moving to the point where a small town of about 12,000 people had spent between \$750,000 and a million dollars on this particular problem and really, any danger from the problem had been long gone, because of the city water.

So I just want to thank the good Senator. It was -- it's a -- it's a good bill. I think that it's important for a lot of small towns and

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individuals and small businesses.

So thank you, Senator. Thank you, Mr.
President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you,
Mr. President.

Through you, a very quick question to the
proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, Senator Meyer,
what you're telling us here tonight in the
Chamber is that this bill is asking for there to
be notification to the other side, the co-signer
of this consent agreement; that they are actually
notified that the change -- that there was a
change in the terms of that consent agreement?

SENATOR MEYER:

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No.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, no, Senator Frantz, this -- this bill is not a notice bill. This bill says that if this agency, DEP, enters into a consent with one of our constituents: individual, corporation or town and -- and there's a consent order prepared, the DEP cannot unilaterally change it; that -- that the only -- if there's going to be change in a consent order that's been signed by two parties, the change has got to be agreed to by both parties. And -- and we believe that's fundamentally fair and that the Town of Tolland was hurt by a unilateral change in the consent order.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, you answered the question that I originally asked him and that was the answer I was hoping you'd say, or give

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the Circle here tonight.

I find it unconscionable that a consent agreement would be unilaterally adjusted. We all know the DEP does great work. And their mission is -- is just a terrific one. They -- they can tend to be a little overzealous at times. We know that's true in a -- in a few cases, but I've never heard of a case like this, with any government agency having a consent agreement, then unilaterally changing it. So I'm surprised to hear about this tonight. I'm glad you're bringing the bill up. And I do stand in favor of it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill?

SENATOR MEYER:

Well, Mr. President, I -- let me also say --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- Senator Frantz said that the DEP does a wonderful job. It's a very significant protector

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of Connecticut's environment and this, I am sure, was an aberration. But we're going to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

Mr. President, if there's no objection, could this go on the Consent Calendar, please?

THE CHAIR:

There's no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 7, Calendar Number 270, File Number 441, substitute for Senate Bill 212, AN ACT SIMPLIFYING CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BOTTLE BILL, Favorable Reporting Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Committees Joint and Favorable Report and move passage of this bill, please.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes, please. Colleagues, Senator Roraback

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Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

And at this time, I'd ask if there's --
seeing no objection, the bill will be put on
Consent.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Good evening,
again, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President would like to have the Clerk
call the items on the Consent Calendar, so that
we might move to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in
the Senate on the First Consent Calendar. Will
all Senators please return to the Chamber?

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the
Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all
Senators please return to the Chamber?

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Madam President, the items placed on the First Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 1, Calendar 571, House Joint Resolution Number 122; Calendar 593, Senate Joint Resolution Number 52; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 130, substitute for Senate Bill 999; Calendar page 5, Calendar Number 221, substitute for Senate Bill 858; Calendar 222, substitute for Senate Bill 973; Calendar page 7, Calendar Number 270, substitute for Senate Bill 212; Calendar 299, substitute for Senate Bill 139; Calendar 304, substitute for Senate Bill 860; Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 439, substitute for Senate Bill 1216; Calendar page 11, Calendar 456, substitute for Senate Bill 927; Calendar page 29, Calendar Number 41, substitute for Senate Bill 98; Calendar page 31, Calendar Number 114, substitute for Senate Bill 881; Calendar page 32, Calendar 140, substitute for Senate Bill 863; Calendar page 34, Calendar Number 201, substitute for Senate Bill 1038; Calendar page 35, Calendar 215, Senate Bill 227; Calendar 236, Senate Bill 371; Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 271, substitute for Senate Bill 1111, Calendar page 38, Calendar

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293, substitute for Senate Bill 1103; Calendar page 39, Calendar 303, substitute for Senate Bill 764; Calendar page 40, Calendar 342, Senate Bill 843; Calendar page 41, Calendar 362, substitute for Senate Bill 1217; Calendar 368, substitute for Senate Bill 882; Calendar 369, substitute for Senate Bill 939; Calendar page 43, Calendar 382, substitute for Senate Bill 1224; Calendar page 44, Calendar 398, substitute for Senate Bill 1044; Calendar page 45, Calendar 410, House Bill 5021; Calendar page 46, Calendar 434, substitute for Senate Bill 1219.

Madam President, that completes the items placed on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

We'll wait a moment. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, there is one item that we will need to remove from the Consent Calendar, because it needs to be amended and be reconsidered and then amended, and that is Calendar page 5, Calendar 222, Senate Bill 973. If that item might be removed from the Consent

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Calendar and called after the Consent Calendar,
so it can be corrected?

THE CHAIR:

The bill is removed from the Consent
Calendar. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you re-
announce the roll call vote and the machine will
be open?

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the
Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all
Senators please return to the Chamber? Immediate
roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please
return to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

All members voted? All members have noted.
The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you
call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motions on adoption and Consent Calendar

Number 1:

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0

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Those absent, not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passed. Mr. Clerk, do you want to recall that bill? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if that item might -- might be passed temporarily, I believe the amendment that would be a strike-all that we needed is not -- not here yet. So we will pass that item.

SB913

Madam President would yield the floor for Members for purposes of announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Any point of personal privilege or announcements? Seeing none.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, it's our intention to convene tomorrow at 11:00. Also, advise Members that you should make the weekend, especially Saturday, available for possible session, as