

Statement of Doris Zelinsky to Rising Seas Task Force

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement to the Rising Seas Task Force. My message is quite straightforward: Connecticut needs a workable balance between the interests of existing shoreline properties and owners, and the dangers of overbuilding and shoreline hardening.

By way of background, I am the owner of a shoreline property in Branford and have been active in efforts to preserve the shoreline from overdevelopment. I was the chairwoman of the public campaign opposing dock construction on Sunset Beach and am active in the efforts of the Sunset Manor Association to protect its beach from overbuilding and shoreline hardening on property adjacent to the Association's beach.

However, I speak tonight for myself and my family.

As an owner of shoreline property, I appreciate the need to protect existing properties and existing uses on the shoreline. However, as such an owner, I am also sensitive to the dangers of overbuilding and excessive shoreline hardening.

Let me give you a specific example. On January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of this year, Sunset Beach was literally devastated from water-based damage. Some of that damage was unavoidable, an act of nature. But much of that damage was exacerbated by the illegal hardening of the shoreline property adjacent to our beach. That hardening sent water onto our beach with a terrible impact on Sunset Beach, one of Branford's natural jewels.

As we confront the problem of rising sea levels, we need to protect the legitimate interests of existing properties and property owners. However, we need to balance those interests with the preservation of the shoreline from excessive hardening and overbuilding.

Many thanks for your attention.

Dated: July 9, 2012