

Connecticut



Waterfowlers
Association

February 8, 2019

Members of the Legislature's Environment Committee:

I am writing you representing the Connecticut Waterfowlers Association (CWA) a 52-year-old Connecticut conservation group focused on wetland conservation and the preservation of the tradition of waterfowl hunting. The CWA urges you to oppose S.B 245, *An Act Prohibiting Hunting on the Quinnipiac River in New Haven*.

Members of the CWA familiar with waterfowl hunting and public safety have visited this site and agree that waterfowl hunting should NOT be allowed at this site. The CWA's goal is to preserve as much hunting opportunity as possible as long as it is safe and compatible with other public uses. We do not believe that this area meets these criteria.

Our objection to this bill is based on process. The Legislature has rightfully provided the DEEP with the authority to manage natural resources, including ensuring that hunting occurs only in areas where it is safe to do so. The DEEP has already temporarily closed hunting at this site with an emergency measure and is in the process of making the closure permanent.

Thus, S.B. 245 is an over-reach by the Legislature and waste of the Legislature's time and tax payers' money. If this bill were to pass it would set a very bad precedent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greg Chasko
President, CWA
Certified Wildlife Biologist