



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

May 30, 2014

The Honorable Denise Merrill
Secretary of State
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I hereby return, without my signature, substitute House Bill 5417, *An Act Establishing a Season for the Taking of Glass Eels*. This bill removes our state's statutory restriction on the taking of elver and glass eels from Connecticut waters, and gives the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection the authority to establish harvest restrictions and a permit system for the taking of these creatures.

Elver and glass eels are the early life stages of the American eel. A review is currently being undertaken by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether American eels are a threatened species. Accordingly, any bill which takes a step towards allowing these creatures to be taken from the waters of our state is premature. Protecting vulnerable species is of the utmost importance. Until and unless it is determined that the American eel will not be on the brink of extinction in the near future, I cannot approve a bill that would prematurely move towards lifting our state restriction on fishing for the young life stages of this species.

For these reasons, I disapprove of substitute House Bill 5417, *An Act Establishing a Season for the Taking of Glass Eels*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning substitute House Bill 5417 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor