



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Date: March 24, 2006

To: Senator Andrew McDonald  
Representative Michael Lawlor  
Senator John A. Kissel  
Representative Robert Farr  
Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Senator Thomas J. Herlihy

Re: **SB 620 An Act Concerning Dangerous State Roadways**

Senators McDonald and Kissel, Representatives Lawlor and Farr, members of the Judiciary Committee, I am State Senator Thomas J. Herlihy and I am here before you today to speak on behalf of **Senate Bill 620, *An Act Concerning Dangerous State Roadways***.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> of last year, one of the most horrific motor vehicle accidents in state history occurred at the intersection of Routes 10 and 44 in Avon. The accident, in the location better known as the base of Avon Mountain, left four people dead and dozens injured. Less than five months later a second major accident occurred on Avon Mountain that claimed the life of yet another motorist. These two accidents are just two out of many accidents that have occurred on Avon Mountain over the roadway's history.

Back in August I, along with Sen. Jonathan Harris of West Hartford, called for the creation of a Task Force to improve the safety of Avon Mountain. The Avon Mountain Accident Task Force has subsequently offered and implemented safety improvements to the roadway. Speed enforcement areas, rumble strips, greater sign visibility have all been improved. Through these measures and the active role taken by Governor Rell, the motor vehicle safety of Avon Mountain has indeed improved, but the road remains dangerous.

Considering the accident Avon Mountain's steep slope and accident history it is imperative that the Department of Transportation (DOT) take extraordinary measures to ensure that the condition of the roadway is safe for commuter and commercial traffic.

In the case of the December accident that killed a 42 year old woman and injured her brother, there were indications that icy or slick road conditions were a potential factor in the accident. It is the responsibility of the state to make sure there is constant vigilance with regard to making sure roads such as Avon Mountain are safe to travel.

SB 620 would provide the much needed relief to the victims and to the families of the victims of the tragic accidents that occurred last year on Avon Mountain.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.