

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mike Cummings. I was a victim of the Avon Mountain accident last summer.

I ask that you please support Senate Bill 620 - An act concerning dangerous state roadways.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> 2005 I was the first to arrive at the intersection of route 44 and route 10, putting me in the first line of traffic. Sitting at a complete stop, I looked down from the light and saw a dump truck traveling at least 100 MPH into the intersection coming straight towards me as he began to flip and loose control. It was like watching a bullet coming at me in slow motion and knowing that I wasn't going to survive. In one second I closed my eyes, squeezed my steering wheel, and bit down and said to myself: "Oh my God, I'm dead."

My minivan was destroyed in the front by the dump truck and its load, it was destroyed from behind as it was tossed into the Kelly Transit bus, and destroyed from the side as it was hit by a car. The passenger side was so severe the passenger seat ended up on the driver's side. I was buried alive by rocks and dirt which filled my entire minivan as high as the windows.

To my surprise I was wakened on the scene by rescuers who pulled me from my van. I spent two weeks in the hospital. I was out of work for 8 weeks and returned part time as I continued to recover. Currently, I still work less than I did prior to the accident, only 35 hours per week.

As a result of this accident, I experienced multiple injuries including: Compound Fracture of right arm, three broken ribs, cracked pelvis, broken collar bone, a punctures lung, severe contusions, dizziness and headaches, broken and cracked teeth, chronic fatigue, torn ligament in left knee, post traumatic stress, to just mention a few. I experienced severe pain for several months after the accident and had couldn't sleep in my own bed. It was also difficult to watch my wife suffer from post traumatic stress. My future involves possibly three more surgeries on my knee, chest, and shoulder. I will miss more time from work and put further hardships on my family.

The entire community was devastated by the Avon Mountain accident, not to mention the lives it took and destroyed. We suffered tremendous loses. Our families suffered tremendous loses. My goal is to look to the causes of this accident and be proactive to help prevent another catastrophe like the one on July 29 2005 at the base of Avon Mountain.

I believe the two parties to be responsible for the deaths and injuries on July 29 2005 to be: 1) American Crushing and Recycling owned by David Wilcox 2) The State of Connecticut.

- American Crushing and Recycling has no regard for public safety or employee safety. David Wilcox has been finally exposed as to the corrupt business man that he is. The following business practices of ACR contributed to the Avon Mountain accident: 1) The hiring of unqualified drivers with felony records 2) Use of trucks unfit for the road ~~3) Allowing drivers to start before a drug test can be performed~~. In addition, ACR dropped their liability coverage on all their trucks in January 2005, operating illegally on the road. In September of 2005, ACR was sighted again by West Hartford Police for reckless driving with 70,000 lbs of earth on Avon Mountain. David Wilcox should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for the victims of the Avon Mountain Accident.
- The State of Connecticut also has liability for this accident. An almost identical accident occurred back in 2001 with another dump truck at the based of Avon Mountain. The truck plowed into a dozen or so cars sitting at the intersection of Route 44 & Route 10. At this time, the State should have taken the same action they took in August 2005 to prevent further accidents, but they didn't. If the State had installed a runaway ramp, installed new road signage, police ticketing locations, performed more thorough inspections of trucks; I believe Chip Stotler and other victims would be here with us today.

Please support the victims of Avon Mountain by supporting Senate Bill 620.  
Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Mike Cummings