

Good morning, Chairman Ryan, Chairwoman Prague, and Distinguished Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Steven Rief, and I am President of the Connecticut State Police Union.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today. I am here to speak in **FAVOR** of :

RAISED BILL NO. 1379

**AN ACT CONCERNING STATE POLICE INSPECTIONS
OF VEHICLES AT WEIGH STATIONS**

The Connecticut State Police was founded in 1903. Since that time, and for the past 104 years, the Connecticut State Trooper has been the quintessential law enforcement officer, having broad statutory authority to enforce the laws of the state. A primary duty of a State Trooper is to enforce motor vehicle laws on our highways and secondary roads, which includes Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement. The department has a number of highly trained State Troopers assigned to the Traffic Services Unit, who specialize in Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Personnel focus their activities on identifying oversize, overweight and unsafe vehicles. Troopers conduct these specialized enforcement activities utilizing fixed scales, portable scales and detailed vehicle safety inspections. In fact, the State Police is the enforcement arm for the Department of Transportation related to size and weight restrictions of Commercial Vehicles.

Currently, under CGS 14-270c, the Department of Public Safety-Division of State Police has primary responsibility for conducting weigh scale operations at five out of the six fixed weigh stations (Danbury, Greenwich, Middletown, and both Waterford scales). The Department of Motor Vehicles has primary responsibility for the Union weigh station. Additionally, the State Police conduct portable scale operations across the state. On average Troopers weigh approximately 300,000 Commercial Motor Vehicles annually, and issued \$7.5 million in fines over the past two years.

Simply stated, enforcing laws related to Commercial Motor Vehicles through fixed and portable weigh scale operations, as well as vehicle safety inspections, is a longstanding traditional role of a Connecticut State Trooper. It's what we do, and quite frankly, we do it efficiently and effectively. The implementation of this bill will enable the State Police to continue their responsibilities related to Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

Joining me today are Troopers Carlo Guerra, Tom Izzarelli, Rick Murray and John Barone, who are assigned to the State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Program. Trooper Guerra has a prepared statement, which he would like to read to the Committee.

I would like to close by thanking this committee for your attention to this important issue and I would be happy to answer questions and provide you with any further information.

March 8, 2007

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION
Steven Rief, President