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Rep. AMAN 14<sup>th</sup>

March 10, 2008

**RE: rS.B. No. 634 AAC Highway Worker Safety.**

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I have come today to ask for your support to amend rS.B. No. 634 *AAC Highway Worker Safety*. The raised bill calls for new penalties of endangerment and aggravated endangerment of a highway worker. As the bill is drafted, municipal workers and contractors would not be protected on local road construction projects. I would appreciate if the Committee includes municipal workers and contractors in this legislation.

A similar bill, rS.B. No. 500 *AAC Highway Work Zone Safety*, was reported out of the Transportation Committee today. Unfortunately, the substitute language did not include municipal workers and contractors who work on local road projects.

During the 2007 legislative session, the Transportation Committee had a public hearing on a related bill I introduced, H.B. No. 5274 *AAC Safety On Municipal Roads*. The intent of that bill was to amend section 14-212a to extend penalties that exist currently to work performed on local roads.

As you consider this bill and listen to the testimony, ask yourself, "Why should a worker be better protected on one side of an intersection that is having state highway work done compared with the other side of the intersection where the work is being performed by municipal employees or contractors working for the local government?"

The South Windsor Director of Public Works brought this suggestion to my attention and I have spoken to several other public works directors who have expressed the same support to amend current law. Thank you for your consideration.

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