

Taxicab Association of Connecticut

Transportation Committee
Wednesday, March 4, 2008

Testimony of Marco Henry, President of Yellow Cab Company

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Marco Henry and I am President of the Yellow Cab Company located in Bloomfield, Connecticut. My Taxicab Company is the second largest Taxicab Company in the State with more than one hundred vehicles. I am also President of the Taxicab Association of Connecticut. The Taxicab Association of Connecticut represents the interests of the owners of both large and many small, independent, single taxicab companies in Connecticut.

I am here to speak *in opposition* to Raised H.B. No. 6547 An Act Increasing The Penalty For Violations of Certain Statutory or Regulatory Provisions Concerning Taxicabs. Section 6 of Raised House Bill 5764 An Act Concerning the Department of Transportation.

This bill, in its present form simply increase the fine on taxicab companies in an amount not to exceed one hundred to one thousand a day for each violation with respect to fares, service, operation or equipment of the taxicab. If increased, a company could be crippled and forced out of business over a minor infraction such as a "dirty cab", excess fare or dome light failure.

Imagine the day after a snow storm , with the road filled with sand and salt and one of our taxicabs gets randomly inspected and fails for cleanliness, resulting a exorbitant fine at a time at a time when it is impossible to keep the taxicab clean. Not only that but the company may not be made aware of the fine by the operator for a number of days, resulting in a cumulative fine in the thousand of dollars.

The Taxicab Association is on record in favor of more stringent regulation, however, any increase in fine or penalty needs to be directed at the responsible party. In most instances, the driver is directly responsible and should bare the cost of the infraction. In that instance when the company is at fault, the process should be changed so that the company receives timely notification of the infraction to avoid a multiplication of the fine.

Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions.