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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Public Hearing on Installation of Sound Barriers I-95, Tuesday February 24 1pm

Due to the short notice given by the announcement, I am unable to get to Hartford to attend the Public Hearing on the Sound Barrier issue on I-95 scheduled for 1pm tomorrow, Tuesday. I understand that written comments are welcome.

I wish to express my outrage at the continued and oppressive noise and carbon emissions blight that afflicts those citizens that live in proximity to Highways in Connecticut – and particularly those adjacent to I-95. I-95 traffic volumes continue to increase and these affect extremely adversely the quality of life of those that live near it.

Protests to ConnDOT seeking relief, cajoling action, even seeking an acknowledgement that a problem exists have been ignored. I am convinced the only solution is to take legislative action that requires ConnDOT to do “the right thing”. The “right thing” is to install sound barriers in all the populated areas through which I-95 passes.

I am sometimes asked whether I did not know I was buying a house near I-95. Of course I did. BUT in 2007 ConnDOT widened southbound I-95 between exits 11 and 10. This brought the noise and carbon blight some 20 feet nearer my house. The natural rock barriers, vegetation and trees that offered some puny and inadequate protection from I-95 noise and carbon emission blights were systematically vandalized by ConnDOT in the construction. An already intolerable level of noise blight to those residents has been aggravated. No effort was made, despite all requests, to construct a sound barrier or to attempt to replace the natural protections that were destroyed.

ConnDOT is now widening northbound I-95 in Darien between exits 11 and 12. The existing sound barrier is being replaced. Plus, trees have been planted outside the sound barriers, presumably to reduce the visual blight. If I feel as if I am being discriminated against, it's because I am. One group of residents gets sound barriers and trees, the other group gets no sound barriers, vandalized natural barriers and no effort whatsoever to mitigate the noise and carbon emission blights.

State Legislature should require sound barriers to be erected alongside populated areas of I-95 so that all residents of Connecticut communities are equally protected from noise and carbon emission blights.

I urge the State Legislature to pass the Sound Barrier legislation introduced by Senators McDonald and Duff.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham J. Powell