



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on two bills which I proposed this session. SB 424 AN ACT CONCERNING RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF EXIT 16, I-84 and SB 430 AN ACT TO PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE OXFORD INDUSTRIAL LOOP ROADWAY SYSTEM. I am grateful that you have raised both of these pieces of legislation for public hearing and ask for your support going forward.

SB 424 is intended to relieve traffic congestion and improve traffic flow in the area of Exit 16 of I-84. The Towns of Oxford, Middlebury and Southbury are all experiencing significant growth. In order for the surrounding communities to support traffic generated by these developments the State Traffic Commission has mandated improvements to intersections on State Road 188 at Old Waterbury Road, State Road 188 at Airport Access Road and the east & westbound ramps of Interstate 84 at Exit 16. My bill requests the appropriation of \$1.7 million to complete these modifications in addition to accelerating the construction schedule for this project so that it is completed as soon as possible hereby creating engineering and construction jobs in the short term and providing a traffic infrastructure to enable future economic development in the region.

SB 430 appropriates state funding in the amount of \$420,000 for the completion of the Oxford Industrial Loop Roadway System. A recently completed CEPA study (finished in 2008) endorsed continued development of Oxford's Industrial Loop Roadway System which serves the town's three new industrial developments. The objectives of the Industrial Loop Roadway Plan are to upgrade the outdated farm roads in the industrial area, segregate heavy industrial truck traffic from residential areas and eliminate potential public safety issues in areas where residential traffic shares industrial roadways.

The benefits to passing SB 430 are numerous, namely it will eliminate significant traffic hazards and public safety accident threats. The existing roads are narrow, have poor

drainage and are contoured with curves that provide significant opportunity for head-on collisions between large industrial trucks and residential traffic from 932 age restricted homes requiring access to Route 67 and I-84. Secondly it opens 95+ acres of industrial land for development and provides utilities at road frontage to service additional shovel ready lots. Finally the passage of this legislation and the subsequent completion of the Oxford Industrial Loop Roadway System will create approximately 3200 jobs, short term and long term.

Oxford is one of the fastest growing towns in the State of Connecticut. SB 424 and SB 430 provide the funds needed to keep up with the costs that the industrial, residential and commercial needs impose on a small community.

Thank you for your thorough consideration of both these requests.