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Transportation Committee  
March 11, 2009  
Testimony of Martin Mador  
In Support of  
HB 735 An Act Improving Bicycle And Pedestrian Access

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

HB 735 establishes a long overdue state policy of promoting bicycle and pedestrian access to the state's highways, roads, and streets.

Under the concept of "complete streets", or streets which provide access for all users, it:

- requires that all users be accommodated on the state's roads
- requires that a reasonable proportion of funds expended on roads, but at least 1%, be spent ensuring access for all users
- establishes a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board within DOT
- requires at least 25% of federal congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program funds and highway safety improvement program funds be used for projects that address bicycle and pedestrian needs
- creates a new Share the Road commemorative license plate, with proceeds used for promoting public awareness and bicycle use and safety

Sierra believes that promoting non-vehicular transportation is an important priority for the state. Providing access for bicycling and walking improves our quality of life, enhances the desirability of living in the state, provides recreation opportunities, improves our health, and improves our environment by reducing vehicular miles traveled (VMT).

Sierra considers this a priority bill for 2009, and thanks the Committee for introducing it.