

Testimony in support of Raised Bill #5386, An Act Concerning the Safety of Pedestrians and Cyclists and the Promotion of Healthy Communities:

March 3, 2010

Submitted by: Debra Dauphinais, 860-633-6512 on behalf of:
State of Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Thank you to the Transportation Committee for your support of bicycle-friendly legislation during last year's session. On behalf of the State of Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, I ask that you continue your support this year.

In 2009, the Transportation Committee led the support for PA 09-154, An Act Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Access, which established this state advisory board. Our responsibilities, as defined by this law, include, but are not limited to, "examining the need for bicycle and pedestrian transportation, promoting programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians in this state, and advising appropriate agencies of the state on policies, programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians." In carrying out these responsibilities, the board has voted to support Raised Bill #5386, an essential component to meeting our responsibilities.

Dedicating a portion of funds to be used for bicycle and pedestrian improvements will help to move Connecticut's transportation system forward. Cycling and walking can and should be an integral part of our transportation system, whether used as the sole method of transportation or as part of an inter-modal commute. Our society is calling for healthier, environmentally-friendly "green" transportation alternatives. Many people currently use cycling and walking for some or all of their transportation needs. Many more would do so if safer opportunities existed. At a time of fiscal responsibility, this is an opportunity to pass legislation that promotes health and the environment in a budget neutral manner.

The State Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board looks forward to continuing its work towards a more bicycle-friendly Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration of this important and much-needed bill.