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Transportation Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 2300 LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony for Public Hearing
Wednesday March 10, 2010

Re: HB 5457 AN ACT ENHANCING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Meg Sautter. I am offering this testimony today on behalf equestrians everywhere. I would like to offer my **SUPPORT for Bill 5457 AN ACT ENHANCING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.**

This bill is important to me because I'm an avid all season equestrian rider. I'm also a co-supervisor of the Connecticut Horse Council-Volunteer Horse Patrol (CHC-VHP), a certified member of State Animal Response Team (SART), and participate in distance biking and hiking.

Human injuries, sustained from run-ins with motorized vehicles, can be serious and tragic. But horses are even more fragile than people. Broken bones in horses often cannot be repaired, and usually result in their death.

This bill will extend added protection for all Vulnerable Users. Enhancing penalties will assure violator's accountability and heighten their future sensitivity. Motorized vehicle operators will finally shoulder the responsibility of all the damage or injury they cause. These operators will be required to attend educational classes, perform community service and/or pay a fine.

At this time, I would like to state that I'm well aware most motorized vehicle operators are compliant, courteous, and act responsibly. This is a bill designed for the rogue operator that ruins recreational activities for all of us.

In closing I would like to acknowledge that this bill was exceptionally well written and inclusive, and on behalf of all the Vulnerable Users, I would like to praise and thank the authors.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,

Meg Sautter
CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor