



**State of Connecticut**  
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PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

**Statement of Brian S. Becker**  
**State Representative for the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**  
before the  
**Transportation Committee**  
**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**February 18, 2011**  
in support of  
**HB 6195**

**An Act Requiring a Feasibility and Impact Study of Converting High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes to "Trucks and Buses Only" Lanes**

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, Ranking Member Boucher, Ranking Member Scribner, and the other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for raising and taking the time to hear testimony on HB 6195, An Act Requiring a Feasibility and Impact Study of Converting High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes to "Trucks and Buses Only" Lanes.

The idea for this bill came from a constituent while I was out door-knocking during the fall campaign. She had just moved to West Hartford a few weeks before I came to her door. She came from Springfield, Massachusetts, where she still works. She commutes daily on I-91. When I spoke with her, she shared her observation that the HOV lane is greatly underutilized. She asked, "Why not use the HOV lane and the lane separating it from the rest of the highway for trucks and buses only? It would not only relieve congestion," she said, "but also separate 18-wheelers from compact cars making the highway safer." This made sense to me. It also reminded me of parts of the New Jersey Turnpike where trucks and buses are prohibited from certain lanes.

Truth is stranger than fiction. Believe it or not, a few doors later, I met a truck driver. I asked him what he thought of the idea of separating trucks and buses from cars on the highways, and he thought it was a "brilliant" idea.

While I understand that, depending on the type of federal dollars we used to construct the HOV lanes, there may be constraints on what we are permitted to do with them, and that engineering issues need to be taken into account, I hope that you, too, will think this a good idea – one worth at least a feasibility and impact study.

Improving highway safety and traffic flow in and out of our state will not only enhance our quality of life, but make Connecticut a more attractive place to work and live. Thank you.