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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Transportation Committee  
February 14, 2011

Testimony In Favor of  
SB 720 AA Creating Penalties For Causing Harm To, Or The Death Of,  
A Vulnerable User Of A Public Way

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I am also a director of Rivers Alliance and of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association. I sit on the Bike/Walk Legislative Advocacy Committee. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Transportation in America has become dominated by the car. Dependence on the private auto has led us to:

- define our land use patterns (suburban sprawl)
- create air pollution (NOx, SOx, particulates)
- contribute significantly to global warming
- use vast quantities of fossil fuels
- overly rely on untrustworthy sources of oil
- damage our economy through imbalances of trade
- damage our individual health

It is the Sierra Club policy to mitigate the environmental harm caused by our exclusive reliance on cars by encouraging non-vehicular travel whenever possible.

This legislature has passed a series of bills which support pedestrians and bicyclists, including the one percent set aside for transportation projects, Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, and three foot passing distance. We have constructed many connected linear trails in the state which provide alternate transportation routes. SB 720 is the latest in this series of efforts to encourage non-vehicular travel.

We recommend the bill require that, for the additional penalties to be applied, the motor vehicle operator had to be cited for a violation and that the "vulnerable user" had to be fully in compliance with the law and not a contributor to the accident.