TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 23, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM <u>supports</u> Raised Bill 812 *"An Act Concerning Penalties for 'Blocking the Box'".*

S.B. 812 would allow municipalities to enact ordinances to prohibit motor vehicle drivers from "blocking the box" at intersections, and allow for imposition of fines for such traffic violations.

The intent behind "block the box" is to increase public safety (for pedestrians, as well as drivers) and reduce traffic congestion.

The "block the box" concept is usually used at busy intersections of cities and towns, and has been very successful in places as diverse as New York City and Miami-Dade County (Florida).

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report S.B. 966,

CCM urges the committee to ***<u>favorably report Raised Bill 812</u>***, a useful tool to communities to protect pedestrians and reduce gridlock.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM via email dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 843-0705.

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