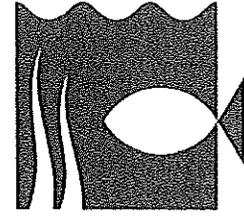


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



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Testimony of **Connecticut Fund for the Environment** Before the **Transportation Committee**

February 28, 2011

In Support of RB 1061 AAC the Use of Off-Duty School Buses to Provide Public
Transportation

Roger Reynolds, Senior Attorney

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is Connecticut's non-profit environmental advocate with 5,700 members statewide. For over thirty years, CFE has fought to protect and preserve Connecticut's health and environment.

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee, Connecticut Fund for the Environment offers this testimony in support of RB1061, AAC the Use of Off-Duty School Buses to Provide Public Transportation.

CFE supports increased development of public transit in Connecticut to reduce carbon emissions levels, to make communities more liveable, and because creating real, connected transit options for Connecticut's businesses and workforce is widely recognized as the key to sustainable economic expansion.

This bill provides a common-sense solution to lack of access and transit options for seniors and the disabled, who must otherwise rely on uncertain transportation methods to get to work, shopping, and to medical appointments. The use of off-schedule school vehicles is a win-win for all; it provides a potential solution to a very difficult transportation issue for our most vulnerable citizens, and it allows for school districts to make use of, and generate income from, vehicles that are otherwise idle.

This bill recognizes that, while working within existing resources, and without requiring any additional fiscal support, it is possible to improve the lives of many of our citizens, and allow greater access by all.

CFE urges you to support RB 1061, in furtherance of creating sustainable Connecticut communities. Thank you for your consideration and for your work to improve Connecticut's transportation network.