

CT
NJ NY
Regional Plan Association

February 14, 2011

Re: Support of Camera Enforcement of Red Lights SB 706, SB 822, HB 6178, and HB 6179

Dear Chairman Guerrero and Chairman Maynard:

I am writing in support of the following proposed legislation: SB 706, SB 822, HB 6178, and HB 6179. The ability to enforce safe driving at red light intersections through the use of camera technology is critical for ensuring the safety of pedestrians and drivers alike. Connecticut should embrace this technology.

In my personal experience, as a pedestrian who does not rely on a car for transportation, I have found myself in dangerous situations on a daily basis that could be prevented with the installation of traffic cameras at red lights. I recently moved from a neighborhood in Stamford where my commute to work consisted of a short bus ride and a walk that was just a few blocks long. My bus home each night let me off a three minute walk from my apartment, but to get all the way home I had to cross two sides of a busy intersection. One crosswalk was particularly dangerous—the majority of cars would roll through the stop line located just in front of the crosswalk and into the middle of the intersection, and when all the lanes were filled with cars the drivers could not see pedestrians, like me, attempting to cross the road. I've even been cursed at just for attempting it. The police lacked the time or interest to monitor the stop light even though the majority of drivers ignored the stop line. My alternative was to make an illegal mid-block crossing and encourage friends and family to do the same.

With the addition of cameras at traffic lights, drivers will become more conscious of the need to obey traffic signals and increase the safety of the pedestrians trying to cross the street using established crosswalks. It is crucial for the health of Connecticut's communities and its residents that pedestrians and transit riders be able to cross streets knowing that drivers who put them at risk by ignoring red lights will face consequences. For the safety of Connecticut's pedestrians, please vote to pass SB 706, SB 822, HB 6178, and HB 6179.

Sincerely,



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