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Transportation Committee  
300 Capitol Ave Room 2300 LOB  
Hartford, CT 06106

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2011

**RE: SB 720 AN ACT CREATING PENALTIES FOR CAUSING HARM TO, OR THE DEATH OF, A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY—SUPPORT**

Distinguished Members of the Committee;

Connecticut Horse Council would like to urge this committee to strongly support SB 720 AN ACT CREATING PENALTIES FOR CAUSING HARM TO, OR THE DEATH OF, A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY.

In today's hectic world, road rage and reckless driving are a common occurrence. Unfortunately, motorists are sharing the road with pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians, and when you have a collision, the car "always" wins.

On occasion, our members ride on the shoulders of roads in order to access one trail from another. Or, they are riding on rural roads with lighter traffic.

Horse Council frequently receives reports from our members of near accidents caused by motorists who either are ignorant of the laws, or more often, simply choose to be aggressive and reckless. I am dreading the day when I receive a call informing me that one of our members has been killed or sustained terrible injuries due to a collision with a vehicle. Despite riders being cautious and following rules of the road, it's a losing proposition when a motorist is acting dangerously.

I have a friend who lives in Andover. Her son was nearly killed when riding his bicycle and a driver not paying attention ran him over from behind. When I was living in another state, a neighbor up the road was severely injured while riding his horse on a wide shoulder--the driver was speeding and not paying attention. And sadly, in my town just last year, a pedestrian was struck and killed by a car while he was walking along a secondary road not far from my home.

I would like to offer thanks to Senator Beth Bye and others who worked to bring this bill forward.

This bill will go far in helping to protect the public, and I would again ask that you vote in favor. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Amy Stegall  
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