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February 18, 2011

**Proposed Bill 802, An Act Concerning The Construction of an Exit Ramp on Route 8 at Exit 14
Bill Purcell, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Good Morning Chairmen Maynard and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner.

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of Proposed Bill No. 802 that would request that the Department of Transportation investigate the construction of a Southbound Entrance Ramp to Route 8 at Exit 14 in Shelton, CT.

As you know, Shelton and the communities of the Lower Naugatuck Valley continue to experience rapid growth, even in the midst of the current economic recession. Today, more than 22,000 people work in Shelton every day, with the majority of them travelling along Route 8 to reach their destination.

As you know, there presently exists two Exit Ramps from Route 8 at Exit 14; one for northbound traffic and the other servicing southbound traffic. There is, however, only one Entrance Ramp to Route 8 from Exit 14 for those travelling in a northerly direction. To travel on Route 8 southbound, commuters must travel through Shelton's busy downtown along Howe Avenue to Center Street to access Route 8 southbound, a distance of more than 2 miles.

Route 8 has been a vital transportation link serving Shelton and the Valley communities and has been a catalyst for the solid economic growth that the City and region now enjoy. Over the past several years, the Connecticut Department of Transportation has undertaken a comprehensive study of the Route 8 Corridor and has plans to undertake a variety of transportation improvements along the highway in the coming months and years.

The addition of a southbound entrance ramp at Exit 14 will vastly improve the traffic flow and generate continued economic activity in our region.

Thank you for your leadership on this important transportation and economic development initiative.

Sincerely,

William E. Purcell, CCE, CAE
President