

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 5, 2012

HB 5368 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE'S TAXICAB INDUSTRY

TESTIMONY OF MARCO HENRY, PRESIDENT OF THE YELLOW CAB COMPANY AND THE TAXICAB ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Marco Henry. I am President of the Yellow Cab Company and president of the Taxicab Association of Connecticut representing the interests of the owners of both large taxicab companies and the many small independent taxicab businesses in Connecticut.

I am here today to testify in support of raised House Bill 5368 (An Act Concerning the Modernization of the State's Taxicab Industry).

There is no disputing that the Connecticut Taxicab industry is in need of modernization. If the riding public is going to continue to receive a high level of service, the current dispatch system needs to be modernized so that all current non-modern taxicab operators provide service on a 24/7 basis.

The best way to accomplish this objective is by establishing a Medallion system. This system will provide value to each current taxi certificate thereby allowing the DOT to impose additional fees on the application and transfer for the annual renewal of the Medallion certificate. This system will not only end the confusion concerning certificates, but will ensure a more efficient operation of all taxicabs and more consistent service for the public.

In accordance of the provision of this proposal, establishing a 5 Medallion minimum will ensure full 24/7 service for taxicab riders. Also, by limiting the transfer or sale of Medallions for 5 years we can ensure that only competent taxicab companies will operate in Connecticut. The fees that are generated will offset any additional costs for the implementation of a Medallion program.

The conversion of current taxicab certificates to Medallions for existing companies will allow them to continue their present business operations. Other provisions of this legislation will modernize the system by providing for electronic trip records and credit card use.

This proposed legislation will also enhance the oversight of individual taxicab operators. The inclusion of a taxicab hack license will ensure that the cab's operator is responsible for the matters within his control such as overcharges and maintaining a clean vehicle. On the other hand, taxicab owners will still be subject to fines for matters that they are responsible for such as vehicle maintenance.

By enacting this legislation you can ensure the modernization of Connecticut's taxicab industry and maintain the high level of service that public deserves and expects. Thank you.