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Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. I would like to express my support for HB 5458. AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS

This legislation would allow municipalities with a population of over 48,000 to install automated red light cameras to assist in traffic law enforcement and deter motor vehicle operators from violating traffic signals. Again this year, a significant number of New Haven constituents have contacted me in favor of this legislation. I share with these constituents a serious concern regarding safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, since police officers in New Haven are often occupied with other pressing issues and do not always have the time or resources to monitor traffic routinely. The New Haven Police Department has expressed strong and enthusiastic support for this proposal.

This bill accomplishes the balancing of public safety concerns with civil liberties. Traffic violations caught by traffic enforcement safety devices will be the equivalent of municipal parking tickets. These violations will not constitute an infraction or violation; they will not be processed by the Centralized Infractions Bureau; they will not be considered a moving traffic violation; they will not be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles for inclusion on a person's driving record; and they will not cause the assessment of points against the operator's license. These violations will cause the operator to be subject to penalties under the municipality's traffic ordinances just as do municipal parking tickets. This could include such measure as parking boots for persons with unpaid tickets. In addition, this legislation creates a number of defenses against enforcement proceedings which should allay some of the fears of these automated devices. Also, the bill provides that signs containing notice of the presence of "red light cameras" must be positioned at sufficient distance in advance of the intersections where cameras are placed to warn drivers of this fact.

Thank you for raising this bill which addresses this important matter, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to balance the significant safety concerns of these constituents with the due process rights of all citizens.