



March 5, 2012

General Assembly
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S.B. 33 – An Act Concerning Department of Transportation Product Delivery

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Stuart Mahler and I am a member of the State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB). **I am submitting this testimony in opposition to S.B. 33, “An Act Concerning Department of Transportation Product Delivery”.**

This legislation would move to restrict the State Contract Standards Board (SCSB) from doing its job. This legislation would end the mission of this agency before it had a chance to be the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.

What is the State Contracting Standards Board? The SCSB was intended to be the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement. The idea was that core governmental functions should not be privatized. Since coming into office, Governor Malloy consolidated the SCSB into the newly created Office of Governmental Accountability which would share staff resources.

As we wait for the appointment of a new Chairman of the SCSB, this proposed bill would block the Board and its mission. S.B. 33, if enacted would create a mechanism called “design-build” that would turn the construction of roads and bridges over to private contractors and likely lead to increased costs, inferior design, and less accountability.

When given the resources to do the job, state employees can outperform contractors and save the state money. There is no political upside under S.B. 33, but there is significant downside risk.

I urge you to vote No on S.B. 33.

Stuart Mahler
State Contracting Standards Board, member

