

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

To: Transportation Committee

Date: February 22, 2012

Re: Testimony in support of RB111, An Act Creating Penalties For Causing Harm To A Vulnerable User Of A Public Way, submitted by Kirsten Griebel, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

My name is Kirsten Griebel and this testimony is presented on behalf of the CT League of Conservation Voters Education Fund in support of RB111, the Vulnerable User Bill.

Our organization works to educate and advocate for policy that will preserve and enhance Connecticut's environment including promoting a balanced and sustainable transportation system. Transportation issues are critical to Connecticut's environment because of the broad impact these issues have on energy, water and air quality, land use, public health and the economy.

A primary objective in striving for a more sustainable transportation system is to reduce vehicle miles traveled, especially singular vehicle trips. To accomplish this we need to ensure that our streets are safe and conducive to active transportation for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, horseback riders and people in wheelchairs. Safer streets will encourage people to consider options other than their car for getting places and protect those non-drivers who already do so. We need to make sure people are safe when they walk to the local bus or train station to get to work, when children ride their bikes to school, or when a senior citizen wants to park in the town center and walk to the library across the street. Raised Bill 111 will be a step toward safer streets for all Connecticut citizens and will promote pedestrian friendly, walkable communities, a critical component of a sustainable transportation system resulting in a better, healthier environment.

We urge you to support RB111. Thank you.