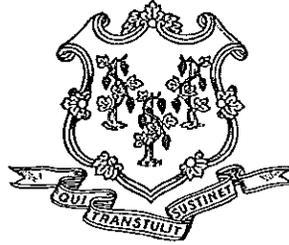


SENATOR GARY D. LEBEAU

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March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Senate Co-Chair Andrew Maynard  
House Co-Chair Representative Tony Guerrero  
Transportation Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Transportation Committee:

***Testimony in Support of: H.B. No. 5458 "AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS"***

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Gary LeBeau and I am the State Senator from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

I first want to thank Co-Chairs Maynard and Guerrero, Vice Chairs Duff and Mikutel, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, as well as other members of the Transportation Committee for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of ***H.B. No. 5458 "AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS"***

The time has come to provide Connecticut communities with the OPTION to provide this important public safety technology in their communities. This legislation, which is permissive, responds directly to the increasing crisis in traffic safety that is endangering lawful pedestrians, motorists and others in their daily lives.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety conducted a multi-year long term study that found cameras have reduced the rate of fatal **red light** running crashes and accidents. In fact the study found that automatic traffic safety cameras reduced not only fatal red light running crashes, but other types of fatal intersection crashes as well.

For too long in Connecticut, we have allowed the individuals who brazenly violate our traffic laws to be thought of as victims and not recognize that the true victims are those that suffer severe injuries and death. We rarely hear about the real victims — the people who are killed or injured by these lawbreakers.

Make no mistake, this is a safety measure first and foremost and NOT simply a means to increase revenue. The goals of this bill are to reduce the frequency and severity of traffic accidents by providing traffic law enforcement with a new resource that will allow for more

efficient use of law enforcement time. Without cameras, enforcement at intersections is difficult and often dangerous. In order to stop a red light runner, officers usually have to follow the vehicle through the red light, endangering themselves, as well as other motorists and pedestrians.

Moreover, public polls consistently show strong public demand for photographic traffic enforcement technology because it will save many lives, prevent severe injuries, and make communities friendlier for drivers, bicyclers, and pedestrians alike.

Furthermore, the increased demand for safety camera enforcement is exhibited by the fact that an increasing number of cities and states are implementing the technology. Since the 1990s, the number of cities embracing the technology has swelled from just 25 in 2000 to over 500 today.

This technology includes safeguards to prevent misuse, and is intended to offer each municipality another instrument to make their streets safer for their community.

Thank you again for you affording me the opportunity to speak before the Committee on this matter and in advance for your consideration of this important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary LeBeau".

Gary LeBeau  
State Senator, 3rd District