



CITY OF DANBURY

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO
Danbury Fire Department**

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February 27, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 6454

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, I am charged with ensuring the safety of the members of the department. In this regard, I fully support this Raised Bill No. 6454, an Act concerning fire station work zones and urge you to support, pass and enact this bill.

All too often, privately operated vehicles create safety concerns where firefighters are working or directing traffic around our stations. The passage of this bill will enable safer conditions for Connecticut firefighters by designating work zones for vehicle traffic and increase markings and public awareness. The number of times we have had to respond to hazardous roadway issues in Danbury gives evidence to the risks inherent in these situations. In Danbury we have frequently experienced hazardous roadway situations that endanger the welfare of our firefighters while returning to our stations. Our efforts to address this have included road markings, use of warning lights and firefighters directing traffic. Even with these actions vehicular traffic often bypasses or ignores these efforts by driving past firefighters holding traffic, crossing onto the lawns surrounding the station or entering into the path of the backing apparatus.

Please help protect and improve and the safety of working firefighters on roadways in the State of Connecticut by supporting and enacting this bill.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Herald
Chief Fire Officer