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February 3, 2013

To: Representative Antonio Guerrero and Senator Andrew Maynard
Co-Chairs of the Transportation Committee

- We write this testimony in support of HB5279 - an Act authorizing Bonds of the State for drainage improvements to Forest Road in New Haven.
- We have been residents of Alston Avenue in New Haven for 18 years, and throughout that time have had to undertake significant expense to prevent and repair damage as a result of frequent flooding from Forest Road. **This is a long standing problem that has only worsened over time.**
- In the past we have made calls to the City and State DOT with no assistance.
- Recently we met, along with our neighbors, with a group from Hopkins School, city and state officials. The general consensus was that no one wants to take responsibility for this problem.
- Forest Road is a state road (CT Rte 122), and the State DOT has acknowledged that the drainage system under Forest Road is old and inadequate for the drainage needs.
- The demands placed on the drainage system have increased over the years due to increased development at Hopkins School, and as traffic has increased on Forest Road.
- The frequent flooding that occurs on Forest Road and the surrounding properties creates hazards to the public on this busy street, as well as to the private property of neighboring residents.
- In the last 10 years, we have spent thousands of dollars to add a filtration system under our back lawn, and improve the landscape to reducing flooding and damage to our home.

Representative Guerrero and Senator Maynard - **we need your help!** We need the State to meet it's obligation to address this dangerous situation. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas and Colleen Gill