



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 4, 2013

From Representative Mitch Bolinsky

Re: HB 5551- An Act Concerning a Study of Traffic Congestion on Interstate 84 in Waterbury.

I'd like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Antonio Guerrero, the Honorable vice Chairs Senator Andrea Stillman and Representative Steven Mikutel, and the Ranking Members Senator Toni Boucher and Representative David Scribner, and the entire membership of the Transportation Committee for their time this afternoon addressing this issue.

I testify today, in support of HB 5551- An Act Concerning a Study of Traffic Congestion on Interstate 84 in Waterbury.

This section of four-lane roadway is among the most constricted, congested, dangerous and inconvenient in the state and completely inadequate to connect a 6-lane western and 8-lane eastern section of I-84 through one of central Connecticut's most congested urban centers. In a state that's struggling in its economic recovery to create or attract new jobs, I believe the daily strangle-hold that occurs for hours in both directions the I-84 New Haven County corridor is preventing potential employers from expanding or locating their businesses in our great state.

Additionally, by effectively cutting off the western part of Connecticut from the rest of the state. I submit that the economic viability of such recent public attractions such as the CT Science Center and Adrien's Landing also suffer from a degree of revenue isolation, as many Western CT and Eastern New York communities with discretionary recreational and tourist dollars to spend, think twice about traversing this unnecessarily congested, dangerous artery.

HB 5551 would fund the study and expedited reconstruction of approximately five miles of obsolete I-84 roadway connecting the Waterbury "Mixmaster" and the Cheshire/Waterbury hill.

In summary, I urge the members of the Transportation facility to support HB 5551 and the aforementioned modifications to the I-84 roadway. Increasing the efficiency of Connecticut's highways will allow residents and commerce to move more freely.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best Regards,