



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MITCH BOLINSKY
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0207
CELL: (203) 470-2728
Mitch.Bolinsky@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 4, 2013

From Representative Mitch Bolinsky

Re: HB 5552- An Act Exempting Certain Fuel-Efficient Vehicles From the Minimum Vehicle Occupancy Requirements of the State's HOV Lanes.

I would 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 5552- An Act Exempting Certain Fuel-Efficient Vehicles from the Minimum Vehicle Occupancy Requirements of the State's HOV Lanes.

This bill would work to amend the general statutes to establish a program to exempt qualifying fuel-efficient vehicles from the minimum vehicle occupancy requirements in the state's HOV lanes. Vehicle owners could pay an annual twenty five dollar user-fee to the state to allow them access to HOV lanes without meeting the minimum occupancy requirement. Such a program is not unique. In fact, states like New York and California have similar, state-issued, fuel-efficient vehicle incentive programs in place for designated, participating vehicles with EPA fuel economy ratings over 45mpg.

The display of "Clean Air Vehicle" stickers may be used to assure qualifying vehicles using the state's HOV lanes are enrolled. Funds collected from the user-fee would be dedicated toward maintenance for the state's transportation infrastructure. This proposal would provide added incentive for drivers to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles, reduce traffic congestion and provide needed maintenance to state transportation infrastructure.

I urge the members of the Transportation facility to support HB 5552 as a measure to also relieve multifarious problems including congestion, aging infrastructure and high-emission levels associated with non-fuel efficient vehicles on Connecticut's roadways.

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

Best Regards,