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February 4, 2013

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Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Myron Johnson I am a lifetime Resident of the Town of Cromwell and a former member of our local Board of Selectmen. I am here today to show my strong support for HB.6028 to improve the traffic flow of Exit 19 in Cromwell.

Honorable Committee members I would ask you to pose this question "If this Bill becomes law would the return exceed the investment. and what would the subsequent impact be?" Allow me to offer my response to the question.

**Economic Impact:** By improving the traffic flow in the heart of Cromwell's Commercial Business zone it would lead to an invigoration for the businesses. This proposed project is located directly in front of Kmart Plaza and little more than a mile down the road you find Wal-Mart Lowe's Crown Plaza and many other businesses that would benefit from the improvement. With little more than 2200 ft. of construction this project provides direct access from interstate Route 9. Once completed thousands of avid golf fans and professionals traveling with the PGA Tour will enjoy easy access to Cromwell. Unfettered by traffic congestion ... The new off-ramp would plainly state for Cromwell... **"We are open for business"**

#### **Traffic Mitigation , Public Safety**

The reconstruction of this off-ramp has a second practical use the new configuration would empty onto the adjacent highway Route 3 which runs North and South on the already overburdened Route 9 This highway would be a great alternative for Middletown motorists should one day route 3 be widened to Route 66. Our traffic studies show Exit 19 provides entry for Middletown as well as Cromwell motorists. In my opinion the best way to address route 9's much more costly problem is to first remove some of its traffic.

**Cromwell's new off-ramp would initiate that.**

#### **Community Outreach**

In 5 years we have Poled citizens, Business Owners and elected officials from Portland to Middletown and Cromwell **we found no opposition** . This project has been overwhelmingly supported . In March of 2011 the Middlesex Chamber stated *"This is the kind of project the state needs ,one that creates jobs, produces economic opportunity"* in a bipartisan letter written January of 2012 to DOT Commissioner Redeker and Co-signed by State Representative Christie Carpino (R)State Senator Paul Doyle(D) wrote *" investigate this traffic hazard and make the design and correction a top priority.*

**In closing:** I want thank DOT. Highway Planning and Operations Departments for their leading insight and assistance and approval of this preliminary design. I urge you to approve HB.6028