

Kess, Quinn

From: Thomas Peckingham <twp1963@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 2:18 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Subject: Testimony Opposing SB 103

My name is Thomas Peckingham and I live at 54 Coleman Road, Wethersfield, CT.

I am testifying in opposition to SB 103, which would amend Section 14-286b of the general statutes "to require persons riding bicycles on a roadway to ride single file". The current statute already prohibits cyclists from riding more than 2 abreast on roadways and further limits them to single file if they "impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic".

As a cyclist who rides close to 2,000 miles per year on Connecticut roadways, my experience indicates the amendment is unnecessary. Most recreational cyclists seek low-traffic roads to enjoy the countryside and to reduce the danger of auto traffic. While riding two abreast is common on less traveled roads, most cyclists courteously revert to single file when a car approaches from the rear. In groups of three or more, one yells "car back" to alert the others to form a single file for the car to pass. Very few cyclists are foolish enough to ride abreast on heavily traveled roads with no defined shoulder wide enough to accommodate them.

For less courteous cyclists who may impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the current statute covers their behavior. While a small number of law-breakers can be very annoying to drivers, it's unjust to restrict the thousands of cyclists who enjoy the companionship of fellow riders by riding two abreast when the conditions allow it.

Please consider this testimony when voting on the bill.

Thomas Peckingham