Written Testimony of

Barbara R. Gilbert, Rocky Hill Town Manager

Transportation Committee

March 8, 2013

Re: Governor's Bill No. 849 "An Act Concerning Local Bridge Program Reform and Establishing A Local Transportation Capital Program.

I am writing in support of the Governor's Proposed Bill No. 849, which has been referred to the Committee on Transportation. The Town of Rocky Hill recommends approval of this bill and applauds the Governor for the higher grant and loan percentages that are being proposed. The establishment and proper funding of a "Local Bridge Revolving Fund" will insure that the funds necessary to make these vital improvements to our infrastructure will be available for future municipal needs.

Municipal bridges throughout the State of Connecticut have been deteriorating at a frenetic pace due to the lack of funding for repairs and or replacement, in addition the freeze that was placed on this program several years ago has delayed designs they were already completed on urgently needed repairs and replacements, making it more imperative to re-energize and reform this program as quickly as possible.

We cannot afford to ignore this vital aging infrastructure any further. The increase in grant and loan percentages should provide sufficient incentives to make this program successful once again. Effectively, this program will increase the safety, sustainability and continuity of our transportation system.

I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to vote in favor of this bill and move it forward to the full legislature for approval.

Thank you for giving me the time to express my views on this critical issue.