STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – February 28, 2014
Public Health Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation

Raised H.B. 5284 – An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas of Railroad Stations.

The Department of Transportation (Department) supports Raised H.B. 5284, AA Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas of Railroad Stations.

The Department supports the proposed language as it will ban smoking on not only the New Haven Line stations, but also on Shore Line East and New Haven- Hartford-Springfield Line corridors owned by Amtrak. The Department is supportive of any ban that will cover all railroad stations in Connecticut regardless of owner.

On February 15, 2014, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) began enforcing a new New York State law that prohibits smoking on platforms, outdoor ticketing and boarding areas of terminals and stations. Prior to this date, the MTA was only issuing warnings and was unable to enforce this policy in Connecticut. The language in H.B. 5284 would provide the continuity and enforcement ability in Connecticut as well.

The Department is in the process of procuring universal "No Smoking" symbol signage for installation on the New Haven Line and other platform areas to supplement signage already in place or to place in locations without signage.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013 or pamela.sucato@ct.gov.