

CITY OF NORWALK  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06854



Tel: (203) 854-0200

Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Transportation Committee  
Rep Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Transportation Committee  
Senator Toni Boucher, Ranking Member Transportation Committee  
Rep David Scribner, Ranking Member Transportation Committee

***Raised Bill No. 5288 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICAL ROAD TREATMENTS.***

My name is Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief Norwalk. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

I respectfully request your support for the subject bill. The effects of road chemicals on our emergency equipment are significant and worsening. The bill will provide for the proper analysis of the problem. It is my hope that we can better protect very expensive emergency equipment from corrosion and degradation caused by road chemicals. Fire Apparatus usually serve in active service for up to 15 years and as reserve fleet for 5 -10 years beyond that. The corrosion we are experiencing on fire apparatus will significantly shorten that service life. Apparatus costs are roughly \$500k for a fire pumper and \$1m for a ladder truck so it is clear that the impact of corrosion statewide will be astronomical.

Many of our trucks are developing issues with rust and corrosion, On frame/chassis components, there is increasing corrosion in the area around leaf spring hangers, mounts and bolts that hold components on to the frame as well as at the frame flanges. We have not experienced this type of corrosion in the past. It has developed very dramatically within the last five years. Fire Apparatus undercarriages cannot be washed regularly during frigid cold temperatures because of the potential of frozen components should the rig be sent on an emergency call before the undercarriage dries. Water in some components will freeze and expand damaging the component as well.

I ask that you pass this legislation so that we can protect the investments in public safety equipment protecting our communities.

Respectfully submitted  
Denis McCarthy  
Fire Chief Norwalk Ct.