

# Connecticut Rail Association

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Testimony in support of H. B. 5288

Connecticut Rail Association

(Raised) House Bill 5288 – An Act Concerning Chemical Road Treatments

February 26, 2014

CRA Position: Supports the Bill

The Connecticut Rail Association (CRA) is an industry trade association that represents the interests of the freight railroads operating in Connecticut. CRA members range in size from Class I interstate carriers to regional carriers and short-line railroads.

The Connecticut Rail Association represents 8 freight hauling rail carriers and also included are 7 associate members. Connecticut Rail Association carriers operate throughout Connecticut on over 740 miles of track. These rail lines are crossed by over 1,100 rail / highway at-grade crossings.

A vast majority of these crossings are actively protected with train activated controlled devices. These active train devices are established to help insure highway safety by providing for the orderly and predictable movements of traffic for both motorized and non-motorized at rail / highway at-grade crossings. These crossing protection apparatus are in operation to direct and assist vehicle operators with necessary guidance and navigation information to make an informed decision in traverse over the crossing.

These crossing protection installations are extremely impacted by chemical road treatments which can have the effect of reducing ballast resistance in crossing surface areas and may cause false activation of railroad grade crossing warning devices. The Connecticut Rail Association would like it if the H.B. 5288 study was to include the impacts at railroad / highway at-grade crossings as a factor in the evaluation of alternative road treatments. And such impacts be included in the report of findings, conclusions and recommendation analysis.

The CRA would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide this initiative, I would urge the committee to include rail highway crossings as an element of the study and ask them to act favorably on this bill.

Respectfully yours,

Roger D. Bergeron, Chairman