AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

Affiliated with, AFL-CIO/CLC

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Testimony for Public Hearing
Transportation Committee
February 11, 2015
S.B. NO. 262 AN ACT CONCERNING PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC TRANSIT BUSES

Good afternoon Representatives and Committee members, and greetings to all in attendance of this important hearing.

My name is Mustafa Salahuddin; I'm the President and Business Agent of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1336 in Bridgeport, CT
I was a School Bus driver for 13 years and a Transit Bus Operator for 23 years, a profession that I still hold today. I'm also a retired Police Officer of 23 years.

I'm here today in solidarity of my fellow Union brothers and to also testify in support of S.B. NO. 262 an Act concerning periodic inspections of public Transit Buses. In my experiences I have seen both sides of this issue, one that deals with the safety concerns of individuals like my brothers Pizunski, Maynard and Hodges, and the other that deals with the regulatory and **REAL TIME** side of the issue, the side that the public sees and puts its trust in every time they board a bus, train or plane either alone or with their love ones. The side that law makers like yourselves put your trust in and gives the benefit of the doubt to the infrastructure of our Transportation System with the hopes and expectations that it is both safe and reliable. The side also that no one pays attention to or gives a second thought to like the working conditions of the operators who operate these massive vehicles, who drive the tight schedules that force them at times to forego a bathroom break so that they don't fall behind schedule, the conditions that make operators more concerned about getting from point A to point B at inadequate scheduled times all while trying to squeeze in a meal or quick snack while continuing to race against clock.

The side that reveals the Structural cracks in the under carriages or frames of the buses and the poorly treaded tires that go not un-noticed but sometimes purposely overlooked because the "**Wheels on the Bus must go round-n-round,**" while in the meantime the general public continues to put their trust and faith in a system that is supposed to get them home safely.

I'm urging this committee to support this Act concerning the periodic inspections of Public Transit Buses before an unfortunate incident or accident occurs and the blame game begins.

Respectfully submitted,

Mustafa S. Salahuddin
President – Business Agent
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