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February 20, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly
Attn: Transportation Committee
Hartford, CT

Sent via e-mail to tratestimony@cga.ct.gov

RE: Written Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 930

Dear Co-Chairs - Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera; and all the honorable ladies and gentlemen of the Transportation Committee:

I would like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the citizens of this great State of Connecticut and take a moment of your time to talk about Raised Bill 930, which adds motor vehicle inspectors to the definition of "peace officer" (CGS 53a-3(9)).

I am Donald Bridge, Jr. from Somers Connecticut. Currently I am a Lieutenant with the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles within the Commercial Vehicle Safety Division. I am a certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, as well as a certified police academy instructor. Over the years I have testified in front of the Transportation Committee on several topics and have had to do so repeatedly on this specific topic. I apologize that I am not able to be present due to prior obligations that relate to my duties as a Lieutenant.

Raised Bill 930 adds motor vehicle inspectors to the definition of peace officer found in CGS 53a-3(9). It would include a group of individuals who are sworn in and take an oath of office administered by the Commissioner. "... I swear to support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, and uphold the General Statutes and regulations of the State of Connecticut. ...". These individuals all have attended and graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy after twenty plus weeks of training and another ten weeks of field training. When we go to work each and every day, put on our uniform, bullet proof vest, and duty belt which includes our service weapon, baton, pepper spray, and hand cuffs, to protect and serve the citizens of the State.

The primary mission of motor vehicle inspectors is the reduction of motor vehicle accidents and incidents on our highways. This is accomplished by removing unsafe vehicles and drivers from our roadways that may be operating in and around the motoring public of Connecticut. This is accomplished through the regulation of the State's: school transportation carriers; bus and truck companies; and licensed dealers and repairers; stopping trucks and buses on the highways and weigh stations.

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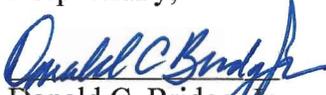
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This Bill does not affect our retirement or change our authority. Motor vehicle inspectors are currently included in the hazardous duty retirement plan and our authority is granted in accordance with CGS 14-8. Do not fall for the hype, this Bill adds motor vehicle inspectors to the definition of peace officer. Regardless of being defined as a peace officer or not, we have a duty to act. The citizens of Connecticut should not only expect that we act, but should demand it! Adding motor vehicle inspectors to the definition of peace officer includes us in those statutes where peace officers are listed, without having to go into each and every one and add motor vehicle inspectors to the list.

I want to thank you for your time and ask for you to support Raised Bill 930.

Thank you, be safe and Godspeed!

Respectfully,



Donald C. Bridge, Jr.

C: Senator John Kissel
Representative Kurt Vail
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