

# *CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE*

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED BILL NO. 518, AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVING WITH A PET ON THE DRIVER'S LAP**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

I am Gordon Gibson of Vernon, Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange, speaking in support of Proposed Bill No. 518, An Act Concerning Driving With A Pet On The Driver's Lap. Our members have seen drivers operating motor vehicles on our roads and highways with animals weighing as much as 50 pounds in their laps. These animals are large enough to interfere with the driver's view of the road and are also large enough that if they moved suddenly they could cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle and cause an accident. The Grange believes all animals should be banned from the driver's seat and be restrained in an area away from the driver while in transport.

While the Grange strongly supports Proposed Bill No. 518 we also believe this bill should be expanded to require that all animals in a moving vehicle should be restrained in a suitable safety harness similar to a seat belt that would protect the animal in the event the vehicle was involved in an accident. One of the principles of the Grange is to protect our domestic animals from harm. Many people share their homes with their pets and consider them to be part of their family. We have laws and regulations that require the use of seat belts or other restraints to protect people of all ages. Should we do any less for our pets and other animals?

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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