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State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE L. JANOWSKI
FIFTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 1003
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (860) 240-0452
FAX: (860) 240-8833
E-MAIL: Claire.Janowski@cga.ct.gov

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TESTIMONY 2/25/15

HB 6099: AN ACT CONCERNING LARGE, BILLBOARD TYPE POLITICAL SIGNS ON STATE-
RIGHTS-OF-WAY

GOOD MORNING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE. I AM REP. CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

I AM PLEASED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED HB 6099, AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL
SIGNS ON STATE-RIGHTS OF WAY AND WISH TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON ISSUE AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO DISCOURAGE THE WIDESPREAD VIOLATION OF STATE RIGHT
OF WAYS THROUGH THE ERECTION OF BILLBOARD TYPE LARGE POLITICAL SIGNS ON STATE
RIGHT OF WAYS. STATE LAWS ALREADY EXIST TO GOVERN THE PLACEMENT OF LARGE SIGNS
IN STATE RIGHT-OF-WAYS BY BUSINESSES. VIOLATION INVOLVES IMMEDIATE REMOVAL AT THE
OWNERS EXPENSE AND/OR FINES.

REGULATIONS DO NOT EXIST TO COVER LARGE, BILLBOARD TYPE TEMPORARY POLICAL SIGNS
(2 FT. BY 4 FT. OR LARGER) THAT ARE IN VIOLATION WHEN PLACED IN STATE-RIGHT-OF-WAYS.
THESE SIGNS CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD BY OBSTRUCTING SIGHT LINES AND ARE OFTEN LEFT
STANDING FOR A TIME AFTER AN ELECTION, REQUIRING DOT TO REMOVE THEM AT THE
STATE'S EXPENSE, OFTEN REQUIRING SPECIAL TRUCKS, NUMEROUS TRIPS AND MULTIPLE
WORKERS. REGULATING SUCH VIOLATIONS WOULD DISCOURAGE THE ABUSE, WOULD
ENHANCE SAFETY AND INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY BY IMPOSING A FINE FOR EACH
LVIOLATION AND CHARGING THE EXPENSE OF THE REMOVAL OF SUCH SIGNS TO THE
POLITICAL ENTITY WHERE IT BEGAN. TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PAY THE
LARGE EXPENSE FOR THE REMOVAL OF SUCH SIGNS.

I URGE A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE BILL AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN
MOVING THIS BILL FORWARD. I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY
HAVE.