



State of Connecticut

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In Support of Proposed Bill 5450

A Report Considering A Ban On Truck Traffic On Route 122 In The City Of New Haven *Testimony of State Representative Patricia Dillon - Transportation Committee February 11, 2015*

Good afternoon esteemed members of the Transportation Committee. I am here to testify in support of HB 5450, AN ACT CONCERNING A REPORT CONSIDERING A BAN ON TRUCK TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 122 IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

The bill would require that the state Department of Transportation report to the General Assembly on the feasibility of banning trucks on Route 122 in New Haven, also known as Forest Road. The report would include the following components:

1. *an assessment of the capacity of Forest Road as currently designed, to safely absorb the current volume and weight of traffic,*
2. *an assessment of the current drainage systems and pipes, one section of which is 10 inches, to safely absorb water flow in extreme weather and reduce flooding and damage to adjacent properties and to vehicles,*
3. *the feasibility and location of bump outs and other measures to improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians,*
4. *the potential impact on road safety on residential streets of banning trucks on Route 122, or Forest Road, between Whalley Ave in New Haven and Derby Avenue in West Haven.*

Forest Road is a very old road, and was and is scenic in its twists and turns. New Haven author Donald Grant Mitchell wrote movingly of his horse carriage ride in the mid 1850's on this beautiful stretch and its surrounding forest. He purchased the land and called his estate Edgewood. But today 150 years later the road carries heavy traffic and floods in storms, threatening personal safety and causing damage to property. Residents have asked for safety measures and improved drainage in many sections of the road. As heavy vehicles negotiate turns and drop down into the flat section towards Fountain Street, gathering momentum, they pose a safety risk to area homeowners.

Over the years many officials from the Department of Transportation have met with residents after a dramatic accident, or flood. In addition, proposed bills have been sent to this committee on several topics included in this proposal. These efforts, well meant, have not resulted in dramatic improvements. I am aware that the department has the capacity to study road safety on its own; I am also aware and concerned that a simple ban might displace truck traffic to local residential streets. However, it is important that the safety concerns and issues raised by changes in traffic flow and extreme weather be fully explored by the department, with potential remedies. Thank you for hearing this important proposal today.

