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

REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4038
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269--8378
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8500
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-mail: Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky in Support of PHB 6587, AAC a Statewide Retrofit Noise Barrier Program

Before the Transportation Committee February 11, 2015

My constituents on Courtland Drive and Pilgrim's Harbor are adversely affected by noise from I-91, which passes through the center of Wallingford. The volume of traffic has increased greatly since the homes were first constructed, and what was tolerable 30 years ago is intolerable now. These residents have no peace. The Dept. of Transportation has measured noise levels but has only put neighborhoods on a waiting list and is no longer funding noise barriers.

I spoke to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office regarding this issue and they tell me the DOT may use their federal highway funds for this purpose as long as there is construction or paving activity. So federal law currently allows use of funds for noise barriers under these circumstances, and I request the committee direct the Department to set aside funds for noise reduction when interstates in Connecticut are repaved or reconstructed.

The proposed bill includes a 300 foot distance which may not be the correct measurement in every situation. If the committee wishes, it might also be appropriate to require some local contribution by municipalities to encourage zoning that protects residents from highway noise. Thank you for considering this bill for public hearing, and I am happy to work with you to amend the bill.