

February 10, 2015

Re: SB 502

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of SB 502. I am a parent, walk commuter, and resident of Middletown, CT. It is extremely important to me to be able to walk and bike safely in my community and I believe several of the initiatives SB 502 seeks to address will help make ALL of our communities in Connecticut safer and more enjoyable places to walk and bike.

In particular, we need language clarifying the "as far to the right as practicable" language in state statute. As it stands, there is far too much ambiguity surrounding this phrase, leading to confusion among people driving cars and those riding bicycles. In many instances it is the safest action for people on bikes to "take the full lane" to avoid unsafe conditions or get where they are going.

I also want to see the state adopt modern designs for bicycle facilities, including two-way bike lanes and so-called "cycle tracks" or protected bicycle facilities integrated into our roadways. We need facilities that are safe for me and my daughter, and my older neighbors to use, when we choose to bike or walk to get where we need to go.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Baum

President, Bike Walk CT

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