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Marcia L. Stemm, 68 Cooke Street, Plainville, CT. 860-747-6881

I am speaking in support of raised H.B. 5548, an act repealing restrictions on the transport of mobile and modular homes.

I am an officer of the Connecticut Manufactured Home Association and have served on the CT Mobile/Manufactured Home Advisory Council since 1997. I am also President of Mobilehome Parks, Inc., a family owned company that has been in business for the last fifty-nine years.

We have 290 mobile home spaces in Connecticut and 215 mobile home spaces in Massachusetts. We do not have the difficulties of transportation in Massachusetts that we suffer in Connecticut. Increased transportation costs because of size, State Police escorts and delays in receiving our product, does not add value but it does increase the cost for our consumers.

Home buyers are looking for smaller homes and dollar for dollar, mobile manufactured homes offer the best value. I believe that by repealing the restrictions on the transport of mobile and modular homes, we will be able to pass the savings of increased transportation fees on to our customers.

Over ten years ago, I testified at a transportation committee hearing regarding the "over size" shipments of mobile homes (14'1" up to 16' wide) which resulted in a pilot test program in 1998. Now it is eighteen years later, the pilot test status was removed by the general assembly in 2003 and there is no evidence that an "over size" mobile-manufactured or modular home is any more or less safe than an oversize shipment from any other industry.

We want our customers to get the most value for their dollar, whether it's the elderly, empty nesters or the first time home buyers. We, in turn feel that our industry should be treated equally under the law regarding transportation.

This bill provides a process by which the home can be delivered to the customer without incurring additional transportation fees and opens the door for discussion on the removal of the restrictions for "over size" transportation of mobile- manufactured and modular homes.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.