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**Testimony from Fran Mayko, Public Affairs Specialist
AAA Northeast
Committee on Transportation
HJ No. 1: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment
To Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund**

February 29, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Transportation Committee . . .

My name is Fran Mayko. I am public affairs specialist for AAA Northeast. We serve more than a half million AAA members in Fairfield, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties.

I thank you for this opportunity to **support HJ No. 1: Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund**

As you well know, Connecticut faces serious financial challenges in funding a viable statewide transportation infrastructure through our Special Transportation Fund.

In recent years, monies in that fund have been used for purposes other than transportation – specifically to balance the state’s budget because of our growing deficit.

Thirty years ago, when this Fund was first established – using gas tax receipts and other motor vehicle-related fees to finance transportation infrastructure investments, the idea was a good one.

But through the years, the State has lost sight of the fund’s original purpose. And as a result, our infrastructure, our economy and our residents have suffered.

As gas tax receipts dwindle because people are driving less and there are more efficient cars on the road, we can no longer depend upon this Fund to finance much needed road and bridge repairs.

It makes good fiscal sense to return to the fund’s original purposes. Unfortunately, it appears we must limit the use of those funds with a Constitutional amendment.

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It is AAA's position that all monies in the Transportation Fund -- licensing and permitting fees, gas tax receipts be protected from diversion.

Apparently, AAA members in Connecticut agree.

In recent member surveys, AAA Northeast and the AAA Allied Group both found that 8 in 10 members -- 80% of our memberships -- would support a law that prohibits the State from using transportation-related revenue or receipts for anything other than transportation projects.

It's imperative CT lawmakers develop a thoughtful, thorough, enforceable law where the language is clear as to what you mean by "transportation purposes" and clear as to what types of fund receipts will be protected.

In 2015, I came before you, along with many other stakeholders, asking for the passage of such an amendment. The time is now right to pass a resolution to stop government from rifling a fund that was created with the sole purpose of transportation in mind.

**I urge you to support a Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment
To Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund**

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