

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

*Benjamin Barnes
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management*

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 12

AN ACT ADOPTING A RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION FINANCE
GROUP

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 12, An Act Adopting a Recommendation of the Transportation Finance Group.

This bill addresses one of the key recommendations from the Transportation Finance Panel's Final Report by creating a cap on the Special Transportation Fund unappropriated surplus. The cap will be set at 15% of total expenditures in the most recently completed fiscal year of the Special Transportation Fund. Any amounts over the 15% cap will be deposited into a new "Transportation Excess Surplus account". The commissioner of the Department of Transportation will be able to withdraw funds from the account, with the approval of the Secretary of Office of Policy and Management, to pay for transportation related capital projects.

In order to ensure the success of the *Let's Go CT!* transportation infrastructure improvement program many new and modified revenues will be required before significant expenses are incurred. This proposal guarantees that those funds will be used right away to pay for transportation related capital projects, greatly reducing the state's reliance on bond funds, while maintaining a healthy unappropriated surplus.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony.