TESTIMONY BY MAYOR MARCIA LECLERC, TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

February 29, 2016

House Bill 5055, An Act Decreasing Wait Times At The Department Of Motor Vehicles.

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and the members of the Transportation Committee.

Good morning. My name is Marcia Leclerc and I am the Mayor of East Hartford. I am before you today to testify in opposition of House Bill 5055, An Act Decreasing Wait Times At The Department Of Motor Vehicles.

This proposal would have a drastic, negative impact on the town of East Hartford. During this time of economic uncertainty, municipalities like East Hartford rely on steady streams of revenue through taxes and a myriad of fees. One such fee includes fines on vehicles that have violated a town ordinance. Our ability to remit these fees is very limited. One such way we are able to collect on these revenue generating fees is the Department of Motor Vehicles denial of the registration and renewal of vehicles that are delinquent in taxes or have a number of unpaid parking tickets.

Eliminating this practice may sound like a way to reduce wait times at the DMV, but it will come with a heavy price to municipalities. This proposed practice may lower wait times at the DMV but it certainly will remove any incentive for individuals to pay outstanding motor vehicle taxes or fees. My town relies on the DMV's enforcement to ensure we collect half of our unpaid motor vehicle taxes as well as outstanding fees. To remove this practice will result in a revenue loss to municipalities already making tough decisions, with no way of ameliorating the lost revenue.

I strongly urge your opposition of House Bill 5055, An Act Decreasing Wait Times At The Department Of Motor Vehicles.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Marcia A. Leclerc

Marcia A. Leclerc
Mayor
Town of East Hartford