



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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**Public Hearing – February 6, 2017
Transportation Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation**

S.B. 253 – AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPAL APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO RAIL SERVICE

S.B. 263 – AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO RAIL SERVICE

The Department of Transportation is opposed to S.B. 253 and S.B. 263. We respectfully offer the following comments.

CGS 13b-34 provides the Commissioner of Transportation the power to aid or promote the operation of rail service in the State and to make any changes to rail services. The broad authority contained in this section is needed for the Commissioner to have the flexibility to manage any disruptions to rail service.

Furthermore, changes in ridership, construction projects, weather events, availability of equipment, availability of train crews, general condition of the railroad, and many other factors require adjustments to rail schedules from time to time. Often, rail schedule changes are not discretionary and, therefore, could not reasonably be subject to approval.

The proposed bills would constrict the Department's authority to effectively manage rail transportation in the State and in turn, the quality of service that our customers rely upon.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or CJ Strand (carl.strand@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.