

Re: HB 5258 AN ACT CONCERNING MOVING OVER WHEN APPROACHING CERTAIN EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Oppose

Co-Chair Lemar, Co-Chair Haskell, Ranking Member Carney, Ranking Member Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Joe Sculley, I am President of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC), representing small business trucking companies in the State of Connecticut.

MTAC is seriously concerned that this will create more safety problems than it would address. Asking motor vehicles to slow down to 20 miles per hour on a road with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour is dangerous. If a passenger car slams on their brakes after coming around a corner and seeing emergency vehicles in the breakdown lane does so with a tractor trailer behind them, that has great potential to cause a tragic accident. Large trucks cannot stop as quickly as passenger cars can.

The 20 miles per hour speed seems like an arbitrary number that is not supported by data. Why 20 mph instead of 15, or 25 or 30mph? We respectfully submit that there should not be any speed limit associated with this situation.

Existing law requires motorists to move over when approaching emergency vehicles in a breakdown lane. This law appears to be widely known and widely followed, based on my own personal experiences of traveling on highways.

Current law is effective, and this bill would undue safety progress that has been made regarding this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

ABOUT CT Trucking Industry

85.8%: number of Connecticut communities that depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods

98.4%: Percent of freight in Connecticut that is transported by truck

\$3.5 billion: total trucking industry wages paid in Connecticut (2019)

62,990: trucking industry jobs in Connecticut (2019)

\$56,133: average annual salary in trucking industry in Connecticut (2019)

\$8,722: average annual CT-imposed highway user fees paid by tractor trailers

\$8,906: average annual fed-imposed highway user fees paid by tractor trailers

