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February 25, 2022

Testimony Regarding:

H.B. No. 5254 – AN ACT ENSURING ACCESS TO PARKING NEAR PUBLIC BEACHES AND RECREATION AND SCENIC AREAS

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to Raised Bill 5254 – AN ACT ENSURING ACCESS TO PARKING NEAR PUBLIC BEACHES AND RECREATION AND SCENIC AREAS.

Approval of this bill would be devastating to local communities and would have huge budgetary impacts upon local municipalities. The current wording of the bill is confusing and not clear to the layperson. However, it is clear the intent is to remove any restrictions to access public facilities. I strongly believe the regulatory powers of local parking areas and streets should remain in local control. By not being able to restrict parking along our already congested beach neighborhoods would overwhelm our residents during the beach seasons. This increase in traffic is a cause of concern in regards to the health and safety of our residents.

The inability to regulate parking at these public facilities will also have a budgetary impact. The current verbiage states with passage this bill would be effective immediately. This would create a shortfall in revenue in the current budgets for all municipalities that are effected. This bill also includes the language that it would continue each fiscal year thereafter. This puts municipalities in a situation to raise those funds in another fashion.

What does this mean for Fairfield, the community you represent? This means no more resident (\$25/season) or non-resident beach stickers (\$250/season). This alone is approximately \$925K annually. It would also mean we would not be able to charge for daily parking (\$40/day during the week and \$50/day on weekends and holidays). That revenue is approximately \$275K annually. The total of those two line items are \$1.2 million that the Town of Fairfield would no longer receive.

I would ask you to oppose this bill as currently written. If you have any questions of concerns, as always, I'd love to connect with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony R. Calabrese, MS, CPRP

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