



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

**Written Testimony Opposing House Bill 5198, An Act Concerning
Maintenance Work Zone Safety Enforcement**

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Ranking Members Martin and Devlin, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 5198, An Act Concerning Maintenance Work Zone Safety Enforcement. We strongly encourage the Committee to oppose this bill.

The ACLU-CT is committed to ensuring due process for people who are charged with violations of laws, including traffic laws. We have been and remain opposed to camera-based traffic enforcement mechanisms for due process reasons. The ACLU-CT is an organization that also believes that Connecticut residents have fundamental privacy rights that are diminished when governments collect sensitive data about us, including information about where we are traveling or located. We thus want to acknowledge that House Bill 5198 makes an effort to address data privacy concerns regarding information collected and stored from maintenance work zone speed cameras. While we recognize and appreciate these efforts, they do not allay our due process concerns with this bill.

Speed cameras would take photos and videos of vehicles on the road, allowing municipalities to send tickets to the owners of cars allegedly caught in a violation. There are due process issues with these cameras, because the camera systems ticket the registered owner of the car, regardless of who was driving. Weeks or months may pass between the alleged violation and the issuance of the ticket, impairing the owner's ability to recall the incident and put up an adequate defense. Additionally,

there are often calibration issues with speed cameras, meaning they could be calibrated incorrectly and may indicate that a driver is speeding when they are not.

Cities across the country have had issues with traffic camera systems, and some have even abandoned the systems altogether because of the many problems they have encountered. These communities have learned hard lessons about privatized, outsourced, for-profit, automated law enforcement, lessons that we need not repeat in Connecticut. They have learned that speed cameras enrich for profit vendors while failing to provide the promised safety benefits and revenues for municipalities. In many places, they've also proven wildly unpopular with the public, who have viewed them as a cynical cash grab.

We urge the committee to oppose House Bill 5198, which jeopardizes public safety and due process rights in our state.