

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

Dear Esteemed Transportation Committee Members,

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

This proposed bill will preclude towns with public beaches from offering discounted parking fees to town residents. So, in terms of access to parking at a public beach, there is little to no benefit to the resident who live and invest in that town, pays significant property taxes to that town, actively contributes to the community that maintains the beach in that town and/or supports the neighborhood where that beach is located. This is bad policy.

Maintenance of the beach does not come without costs. It falls directly on the taxpayers of the town that the beach is located. Fairfield welcomes residents from our neighboring communities to visit our beaches, but as the taxpayers that financially support these public beaches, it is only fair and equitable that nonresidents pay an additional cost to contribute to the maintenance of our town beaches.

Anthony Calabrese, Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Fairfield submitted testimony detailing the devastating financial impact H.R. No. 5254 would have on the Town of Fairfield. By his calculations, this legislative measure would deprive our town of \$1.2 million dollars.

Passage of this bill will place an additional tax burden on residents where the beach is located as the town will not be able to recoup additional fees from non-residents. Nonresidents should be welcomed on all public beaches, but I oppose this bill on the simple principle that everyone who uses our public beaches should pay their fair share to maintain our beautiful town beaches for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Brian Farnen

Brian Farnen
Former State Representative
Fairfield and Southport