



March 4, 2022

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

Dear Transportation Committee Members:

This testimony is written and submitted on behalf of the Fairfield Beach Residents Association in **OPPOSITION** to raised Bill 5254- AN ACT ENSURING ACCESS TO PARKING NEAR PUBLIC BEACHES AND RECREATION AND SCENIC AREAS.

Founded in 1955, the Fairfield Beach Residents Association is a 501(c)4 advocacy organization comprised of homeowners from the Old Post Road south to Fairfield Beach Road west to the end of the road, and Reef Road east to Beach Road. The FBRA aims to: represent and implement the interests and desires of the membership in maintaining and improving Fairfield Beach and vicinity; promote cooperation among the owners and renters; represent the common interests of the membership in relation to governmental authorities, and provide for the mutual assistance, enjoyment, and quality of life for all people residing in the Fairfield Beach area.

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

Maintenance of the beach does not come without costs. It falls directly on the taxpayers of the town in which the beach is located. We welcome 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 the beaches.

In addition to the financial effects of the bill, our very congested beach neighborhoods will become even more congested. If parking cannot be restricted on our narrow New England streets, emergency personnel in their vehicles cannot respond appropriately putting residents' safety in jeopardy.

The beach community in Fairfield is extremely busy in the summertime. Not a weekend goes by that there is not a charity walk, bike, or run including the Fairfield Half Marathon and Fairfield 5K race. Our narrow streets are crowded with pedestrian traffic, people biking, people pushing baby strollers, people pulling kayak wagons. Overcrowding already puts beachgoers in danger.

FBRA asks you oppose this bill as currently written. I am available through FBRA06824@gmail.com or at 203-292-9840 should you have questions, or I can provide more information on behalf of beach residents in Fairfield.

Regards,

Carolyn Kamlet

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President, Fairfield Beach Residents Association