

Draft email and phone script for Visibility Brigades to alert their reps

Email

Subject line: Update on bridge Visibility Brigades in CT

State Rep/Senator name

Dear Representative/Senator (name):

You may have heard about the national protests being held on highway overpasses across the nation. These groups are part of an informal network that has grown since January 20, and Connecticut hosts at least xx groups, or Visibility Brigades, on bridges over I-95, I-91, I-84, and the Wilbur Cross/Merritt parkway.

As a member of the BLANK group, I'm writing to inform you that several of us have been interrupted in our safe protests on public sidewalks over the highways by town police and CT State Troopers (CST). The town police squads have been invariably courteous and cautious—allowing us to exercise our First Amendment rights to protest as long as we don't block traffic or pedestrians, and don't attach anything to the fencing. However, the CST have become increasingly forceful in shutting us down, and have gone as far to arrest one of our group leaders for criminal trespassing in the New Haven region, while citing protestors with tickets in the Norwalk area.

Senator Bob Duff has reached out to Commissioner Ronnell Higgins about DOT regulations and trooper behavior. His response was disappointing. The DOT has told us they do not require permits for these protests, so the troopers are left to interpret other laws in vague ways.

I am writing to let you know that several of your constituents are taking part in these protests on a regular basis, and our numbers are growing. Right now across the nation there are more than 200 separate groups protesting in 34 states. **Connecticut is the only state where an arrest has been made for these actions.**

[If the rep is a member of either the Committee on Public Safety, Judiciary Committee, or Transportation Committee, add this paragraph]. As a member of the BLANK committee, you should be aware of this growing phenomenon. We are citizens performing our civic duty of pointing out our government's wrongful actions and we hope you will support us.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Connecticut.

(Next page for phone script)

Phone script

Good morning, my name is (BLANK) and I live in Representative/Senator's District #. My zip code is 00000.

I'm calling to alert the Representative/Senator to something that's been happening in her/his district that may be receiving more attention going forward. You may have heard about the national protests being held on highway overpasses across the nation. These groups are part of an informal network that has grown since January 20, and Connecticut hosts at least xx groups, or Visibility Brigades, on bridges over I-95, I-91, I-84, and the Wilbur Cross/Merritt parkway.

As a member of the BLANK group, I'm calling to inform you that several of us have been interrupted in our safe protests on public sidewalks over the highways by town police and CT State Troopers. Recently the State Troopers have become increasingly forceful in shutting us down and have gone as far to arrest one of our group leaders for criminal trespassing in the New Haven region. We are concerned about the chilling effect their behavior will have on all of us as we attempt to exercise our First Amendment rights.

I'm happy to send more information or talk to a representative from your office. Thank you for your attention.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR COMMITTEES—check to see if your reps are on these committees

Links to check committee membership—check to see if your rep is on one of these and reference it in your communication

Public Safety: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/ps/>

Transportation: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/tra/>

Judiciary: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/>