



State of Connecticut

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HB 5476: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUSIC HALL OF FAME

GOOD MORNING SENATOR LEBEAU, REPRESENTATIVE BERGER AND MEMBERS OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

THIS WILL SERVE AS WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED & RAISED BILL HB 5476, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUSIC HALL OF FAME IN ROCKVILLE. THE PROPOSED BILL WAS CO-INTRODUCED BY ME AND NINE EAST OF THE RIVER LEGISLATORS WHO ARE NOW LISTED ON THE RAISED BILL AS CO-SPONSORS. FIRST, I'D LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR RAISING THIS BILL. THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE & HONOR CONNECTICUT MUSICIANS & SONGWRITERS INCLUDING FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL STAR, GENE PITNEY KNOWN AS THE "ROCKVILLE ROCKET".

FOR SOME TIME, I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OFFICE & THE GENE PITNEY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE TO LOCATE SUCH A FACILITY IN THE ROCKVILLE SECTION OF VERNON, THE BOYHOOD HOME OF GENE PITNEY AND AM PLEASED THAT BOTH SPEAKER AMANN AND MAJORITY LEADER CHRIS DONOVAN VISITED ROCKVILLE LAST FALL FOR A VISUAL TOUR OF A POTENTIAL SITE. I HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH THE GENE PITNEY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE WHO ASKED ME TO PURSUE LEGISLATION AND ARE ALSO HERE TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL. SUPPORT SPANS TWO LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS INCLUDING THE CURRENT MAYOR & JUST LAST TUESDAY THE VERNON COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR TO PURSUE A GRANT TO FACILITATE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE LOCATION OF THE MUSIC HALL OF FAME IN DOWNTOWN ROCKVILLE.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT LOCATING SUCH A FACILITY IN ROCKVILLE WILL INCREASE MUCH NEEDED TOURISM IN THE REGION RESULTING IN A MORE ROBUST ECONOMY FOR THE AREA. VERNON, IN HONORING THE TALENTS OF GENE PITNEY, HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE LEAD ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HONORING CONNECTICUT MUSICIANS. THIS BILL WILL CONTINUE THAT EFFORT AND I URGE YOUR UTMOST CONSIDERATION IN ITS PASSAGE.