

Good Morning Representative Berger, Senator LeBeau and members of the Commerce Committee:

For the record, I am State Representative Matthew Lesser and I am here to testify on Proposed H.B. No. 5076 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY MUSEUM AND WELCOME CENTER IN MIDDLETOWN.

We all realize that the State is under financial distress. However, this idea is meritorious and would generate jobs and, in the long-run, increase tourism in Central Connecticut. A Military Museum will honor the men and women who serve our state and country and would be an interesting destination for anyone interested in the armed forces. Middletown is uniquely well-suited to host a Military Museum and Welcome Center. It is conveniently located in the center of the state and a location for the museum is already available. Middletown is already home to many active veterans' organizations and to the State Veterans' Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and support of this bill.

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