

Burns, Vanessa

From: Karen Burnaska [karenb01@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 10:46 AM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: FW: Support of DOT transit budget HB 6380

From: Karen Burnaska [mailto:karenb01@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 10:44 AM
To: 'appropriationtestomo@cga.ct.gov'
Subject: Support of DOT transit budget HB 6380

February 25, 2011

Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 31 business, social service, environmental, planning, transportation and civic organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the benefits of bus transit and advocating for increased investment in transit services, I ask you to support the transit budget included in HB 6380 AAC the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2013.

In these difficult economic times, transit service is needed more than ever. Investing in transit not only creates jobs but gets people to their jobs. Use of transit relieves congestion on our roads and helps reduce harmful air pollution.

While additional funding would provide for needed transit improvements, the budget before you is sound. Keeping fares affordable is necessary for riders without cars or other access to places of employment, medical centers, shopping, educational facilities, etc.

Specifically in regards to transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities, I request that funding for the Municipal Grant Program used to provide demand responsive transportation service remain at the current level and not be decreased. Demand responsive service is essential to the daily lives of the elderly and disabled. A cut in funding would decrease the amount of service that could be provided to residents across the state.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your continued support of transit service.

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator

Transit for Connecticut

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