



Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

Board of Directors

February 28, 2011
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Bill 5940

Chair
Russ Brenneman

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters strongly supports House Bill 5940, An Act Concerning the Creation of a Strategic Plan for Passenger and Freight Rail Service.

Treasurer
Thomas Swarr

Secretary
Thomas Harrison

If enacted, this bill will enable the state to create a comprehensive state-wide plan for achieving a 21st Century public transit system for Connecticut. Although there have been a number of rail plans adopted over the years, Connecticut lacks one clear strategic vision that analyzes and prioritizes all possible public transit projects in terms of environmental, economic, social and regional benefits. All public transit projects included in this plan should be viewed through the prism of smart growth principles and evaluated to ensure alignment with the State Plan of Conservation and Development.

Directors
William Ruskin
Timothy Bowles

Executive Director
Lori Brown

Connecticut's transportation challenges are well documented and create a significant negative environmental impact on the quality of our air, water and land use on a daily basis. An expanded and improved public transit system is imperative to the long-term health of Connecticut's environment. This will require an extraordinary investment in transportation infrastructure and therefore demands appropriate accountability; every dollar invested must reap the greatest environmental, economic and social benefit for all of the citizens of this state. A state-wide strategic plan for mass transit that includes rail, bus and bike/pedestrian interconnectivity, developed by a diverse group of stakeholders, will serve as a road map for a sustainable transportation system and allow Connecticut to compete aggressively for federal funding.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge you to join us in support of Bill 5940.

Submitted by:
Kirsten Griebel
Program Director
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund