

State of Connecticut

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 22, 2011

Senator Andrea Stillman, Senate Chairperson
Representative Antonio Guerrero, House Chairperson
Senator Toni Boucher, Senate Ranking Member
Representative David Scribner, House Ranking Member

Date: February 18, 2011 Public Hearing
Re: Testimony in support of S.B. 800 – An Act Restoring Commuter Rail Service from Waterbury to Hartford

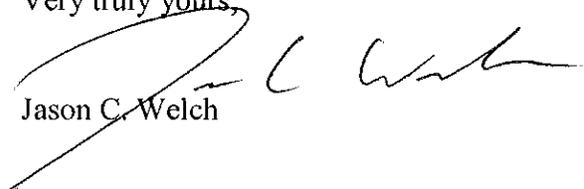
Thank you for offering S.B. 800 for a public hearing. This bill seeks to address the transportation challenges that we currently face in the 31st district.

In particular, Bristol is unique in that it is a large municipality that is difficult to get to and from. Many of our residents commute to the Hartford area on a daily basis. Our largest employer and taxpayer, ESPN needs access to Boston and New York City on a daily basis.

Our early assessment points to rail as a more cost-effective, holistic solution to achieve the goal of moving the most people, the farthest for the least amount of money.

The proposed busway just does not seem to accomplish that, and indeed it was based on studies that did not include greater Bristol's needs. We should look for less costly alternatives, as well as a more strategic, long-term approach to transportation policy; one in which New Britain would be included and one which considers the potential for freight rail.

Very truly yours,


Jason C. Welch