



State of Connecticut

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February 17, 2011

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

I write to you today to express my support for **SB 900: An Act Establishing a Connecticut Antiques Trail**.

An antiques trail will help spur economic development in my district. Woodbury is known as the 'Antiques Capital of Connecticut' and we should be promoting this area of our state as a destination for tourists, collectors, decorators and dealers alike.

The Woodbury Business and Economic Development Committee has proposed a plan to place signs for the trail along Route 8 from Seymour to Torrington to create an antiques trail that includes Seymour, Oxford, Southbury, Woodbury, Roxbury, Washington, Bethlehem, Morris, Litchfield, Bantam, and Torrington.

Last year we were successful in obtaining signage off of the I-84 Exit 15 to promote the trail, and the numerous dealers in the area attest to the increase in first-time visitors to their stores due to the signage.

The monetary benefits will extend well beyond antiques shops. They will also help other struggling retail businesses, restaurants and even gas stations during these difficult economic times.

We have a great story to tell. These signs will help us to tell it. I urge you to please consider passage of SB 900.

Sincerely,

Senator Rob Kane