

Public Testimony Regarding HB 6128

Hello, my name is Sam Tracy and I am a student at the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut, a member of the environmentally-focused learning community EcoHouse, and currently have an internship in Hartford twice a week. My permanent residence is in South Windsor, CT where I have lived my entire life. I strongly support HB 6128, which would create a bus route from Storrs to Manchester and Hartford.

I am lucky enough to have a car on campus, but many of my friends and fellow Huskies are not. You must be have junior academic standing to be considered for a residential permit, and there are also the many costs of having a car (the car itself, gas, insurance, registration, repairs, and the parking pass) which many students simply cannot afford. These students are also the ones who need jobs most, of which there is a smaller supply of at UConn than there is demand. There are also far more opportunities for internships in Hartford than at Storrs, and it is well known that internships are becoming a near-essential part to finding a job in this difficult economy. On this topic, the UConn Department of Career Services has also endorsed this bill, as it would surely increase career opportunities for students at our state's (and New England's) leading public school.

I also support this bill as a person concerned with the environment. Having one bus route going to Hartford and Manchester would decrease the amount of fuel used by students to attend jobs and internships, as well as decreasing traffic congestion and idling. There are currently dozens of students who drive separately to Manchester and Hartford multiple times a week, and to concentrate them all in one bus would take many cars off the road.

Please vote favorably for HB 6128, as it would benefit the students of UConn, as well as lessening traffic congestion and saving money and gas.