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February 17, 2011

Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Senators and Representatives:

Hartford 2000 is adamantly opposed to Proposed Bill 880: An Act Restoring Commuter Rail Service from Waterbury to Hartford. Specifically, we oppose the transfer of "all unexpended funds designated for the New Britain busway".

Hartford 2000 is the coalition of Hartford's thirteen Neighborhood Revitalization Zones and the City of Hartford. Our mission is to strengthen the individual and collective capabilities of the NRZs and to serve as an advocate for neighborhood issues. For fifteen years, Hartford's neighborhoods have been supporting each other as we work to ensure that Hartford is a good place in which to live, work, visit, and own businesses.

The Parkville, Asylum Hill, and Frog Hollow NRZs have been directly involved in planning for the Hartford New Britain Busway for more than ten years. The NRZs have sponsored community meetings, participated in planning charettes, helped with the design of the busway stations, and worked in partnership with our Federal representatives, CRCOG and CTDOT to secure funding and other support in order to bring the Busway to fruition.

In addition to supporting the work of our member NRZs, Hartford 2000 firmly believes that all of Hartford's neighborhoods will benefit from the busway. The reduction in automobile traffic will create a healthier city, the jobs that will be created will be available to Hartford residents, and the transit-oriented development that will grow up around the stations will provide both shopping opportunities and convenience and additional jobs.

It would be extremely short-sighted and a huge mistake to cancel the Hartford New Britain Busway after ten years of hard work and commitment. We urge you to eliminate Proposed Bill 880 from any further consideration.

Sincerely,


Joseph Barber
Co-Chair


Bernadine Silvers
Co-Chair