

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I write to support the proposed extension of Shoreline East to include New London and Mystic to the existing stations serviced by rail from New York City.

As a major tourist destination, New London and Mystic would benefit greatly with enhanced rail service. Just today, The Day Newspaper printed a front page story outlining plans Governor Daniel Malloy has made to provide matching funds for the annual OpSail Festival in New London. This event generally brings upwards of 300,000 people from around the state to the city. The tourist revenue generated is extremely important to our local economy. And the promotion of our six square-mile city benefits equally from this positive family attraction. Likewise, Mystic, it goes without saying, has much to offer in terms of attractions (the Seaport and the Aquarium are obvious examples).

An extension of the current rail schedule to these two towns would reduce the unwanted influx of motor traffic and all the attendant environmental issues such as air pollution, insufficient parking, and waste of fossil fuels.

I urge the Committee to consider an extension of the Shoreline East system to include New London and Mystic with an eye to arriving at a positive decision to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Abigail B. MacDonald