



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA Z. SAWYER
FIFTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HOUSE REPUBLICAN DEPUTY LEADER-AT-LARGE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
FAX: (860) 240-0207

EMAIL: Pamela.Sawyer@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer
Before the Planning & Development Committee
On raised Senate Bill 342
March 9, 2012
10:30 Room 2B*

RE: In Support – rSB 342 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNET WEB SITE FOR THE WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Dear Chairmen Cassano and Gentile, Ranking Members Fasano and Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing in strong support of rSenate Bill No 342 which would require the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development to development a website to highlight the portion of the Washington-Rochambeau Route through our state.

It was the influential assistance of the French Army during the Revolutionary War that was instrumental to turn the tide towards independence for the Colonies. Never before had colonies broken away from the mother country in an effort to be a free nation. We could not have done it alone. And it is important that this part of our nation's earliest history must not be lost.

*I spear-headed the funding of the W3R trail in 1995 that provided the basis for the archeological digs at area locations that were still relatively untouched, to produce the historical evidence needed, before sites were lost to development. It also provided money for research into historical documents from the time of the French Army march, to obtain details and coordinate the historical materials. From that, reports and books have been written which has heightened the interest by local residents, historical scholars, as well as a few tourists.

*A centralized, coordinated place is needed to provide the important background and history as well as an active site with the upcoming local events posted.

*It all needs to be coordinated on a website and Facebook page that would be regularly maintained.

*In an effort to improve the local economies of CT towns, This National Trail can be an economic springboard for local restaurants and lodging.

*Note: The agency would apply for matching money from the National Parks Service. Currently, CT receives very little assistance from the National Park Service which only provides federal funding to one instate historical site, the Weir Farm.

I am grateful for the Committee in raising this legislation and appreciate your favorable consideration.
Thank you.