

Rep. Lavielle, Gail

From: Harry Clark [wiltonclarks@optimum.net] **Sent:** Fri 3/9/2012 5:17 AM
To: Sen. Maynard, Andrew
Cc: Rep. Guerrero, Tony; Strand, CJ; zRepresentative Gail Lavielle
Subject: Regarding MTA Fare Increases
Attachments:

People,

I'm OK with the (somewhat surprisingly large) fare increases if we can improve service and make the experience more "rider friendly".

Even simple things that have no cost to the MTA would be welcome.

For instance, free wifi at all stations and on the trains?

Or reversing the arbitrary 14-day expiration of tickets that went into effect last year (previously tickets were good for 180 days and honestly I see no reason to put an expiration date on them at all) My goodness, who thought up that LOSER of a policy???

Or low-cost initiatives like reducing parking fees at local stations? I pay \$9 to park at South Norwalk station. Add the cost to the round-trip ticket, and cab or subway fare on the NYC end, and it's a break even at best vs. driving (I know quite a few "early bird specials" in Manhattan lots that range between \$12 and \$22)

The Metro-North on-time record is very impressive, the new train cars are very nice, and the conductors and other staffers are excellent. But if the MTA is going to come to the taxpayer with hat in hand, we need to expect something in return. Let's find some zero- or low-cost initiatives that make the service better.

Sincerely,
Harry Clark

Harry Clark
Shrunken Head Films LLC
130 Old Highway
Wilton, CT 06897

(203) 834-9921 fax
wiltonclarks@optimum.net
harry@shrunkenheadfilms.com

 This message was sent with high importance.

Rep. Lavielle, Gail

From: Andrew Todd [andrewtodd@optonline.net]
To: Rep. Lavielle, Gail
Cc: Strand, CJ
Subject: Support of HB 5067
Attachments:

Sent: Tue 3/6/2012 6:30 PM

Sen Lavielle & Members of the CT Legislator:

I write to you is FULL SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5067.

I am totally applaud by the actions of Gov Malloy and his direction of the revenues from the Metro North Fare Hikes. The fares are solely for the operation of the railroad and not to bail out the State of CT's budget problems. Has anyone took a Metro North train on the New Haven line recently? On some trains you literally pray the the train will make it to GCT or New Haven. The trains are disgusting, old well past their useful life, they are dirty, late half the time no a/c in the summer. The ride is so bad sometimes that you ride in cars that you feel like you are sitting on the tracks themselves! And yes we are getting NEW M-8's at a snails pace and paying for them already through a legislated increase during the Rell administration. The ridership for the railroad is up over 5% and with the surge in gas prices has no signs of going down anytime sooner. The trains are PACKED and any given day it is Standing Room Only!!! And do you really think its fare for a \$300 monthly ticket that I can't get a seat? The floors have duck tape on them to cover holes! The doors on the trains don't work half the time. The centenary wires still need to be replaced. At any given time there are at least 10-15 cars in the shop for repairs. I do give Metro North some credit in trying to keep this rolling junk yard rolling but too many times, too many problems make this a nearly impossible task. The fare raised from the railroad need to stay in the railroad for many, many repairs that is surely needed. The State of CT up until Jody Rell was treated like a Red Headed step child. She knew how vital rail service in this state is and started to fund it and upgrade it. Not only does the rail itself need all the money it gets but we NEED PARKING up & down the line as well. Once again in SONO our 725 spot garage which I pay the highest monthly fee for is packed and closed daily!! And its only going to get worse! Funds that are raised for our trains belong to our trains and the passengers that pay the highest rail fares in the nation. Dan Malloy who being from Stamford should know this but turns a blind eye! What's going to happen when the railroad starts to deteriorate again after the funds are stripped. Is the gov at that time going to turn right back to the commuters and demand another fare increase because the money we did have were all being used in different parts of the state that don't even use mass transit. This needs to stop NOW an once again I speak as a member of The Commuter Council for all commuter in this State that Dan Malloy is WRONG with this idea and that Sen Lavielle's bill is the right way to go...I support this bill 100%!!!

Dan Malloy needs to get a clue!

Drew Todd

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Gail Lavielle <gaillavielle@aol.com>
Subject: Fw: HB 5067
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 4:57 pm

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: "Rep. Lemar, Roland" <Roland.Lemar@cga.ct.gov>
Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 12:25:51 -0500
To: <Mark.Wuest@barclayscapital.com>; Strand, CJ <CJ.Strand@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: <cherie.santos-wuest@snet.net>; <CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: HB 5067

Thank you for your email Mark, I completely agree with you and you can certainly count on my support of HB5067
-
Feel free to call if you would like to talk more,
Roland

Roland Lemar
CT State Representative- 96th District
Representing Hamden & New Haven
<http://www.housedems.ct.gov/lemar/>
roland.lemar@cga.ct.gov

At the Capitol:
Legislative Office Building, Room 4028
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
1-860-240-8585 | 1-800-842-8742

In the District:
6 Eld Street
New Haven, CT 06511

From: Mark.Wuest@barclayscapital.com [mailto:Mark.Wuest@barclayscapital.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Strand, CJ; Rep. Lemar, Roland
Cc: cherie.santos-wuest@snet.net; CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com
Subject: HB 5067

I understand that Governor Malloy's proposed budget is taking \$9+ million from the most recent fare hike and NOT spending it on rail operations or improvements. I find this reprehensible and urge you to support HB 5067.

According to recent news reports, approximately 50% of highway funding comes from gas taxes paid by consumers, whereas approximately 70% of rail funding in Connecticut is derived from fare collection from commuters.

Increasing fares on commuters for trains and buses without a similar increase in gas taxes placed an extraordinary burden on rail and bus commuters to fund the common benefit of transportation in the State.

Now with the Governor attempting to use these revenues derived from rail and bus commuter fares for non rail and bus related expenses is nothing more than a thinly veiled tax increase focused on a very specific demographic.

I understand that the State Budget is a dynamic beast, but when it comes to what is right, there is nothing appropriate in increasing the burden on rail and bus commuters without using those funds to help improve the pitiful level of services we endure every day.

Mark Wuest

A daily commuter on Metro North.

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From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>

To: Joe Salata <jasjr7273@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: HB5067

Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 8:38 am

Many thanks Joe!

Jim Cameron

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: Joe Salata <jasjr7273@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 05:21:06 -0800 (PST)

To: <cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>

Subject: HB5067

As a Connecticut commuter since 1978, I wish to convey that I support HB5067 to dedicate rail fare increases to improvements in MetroNorth services and only for that. Do not spend our fares on other transportation matters. Thank you.

Joseph A. Salata, Jr.

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Joe Salata <jasjr7273@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: HB5067
Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 8:38 am

Many thanks Joe!

Jim Cameron
V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: C1RailCommuters

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Joseph A. Salata, Jr.

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: David Boberski <david_boberski@mac.com>
Subject: Re: I support HB 5067
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 12:40 pm

Thanks David!

Jim Cameron

-----Original Message-----
From: David Boberski
To: cj.strand@cga.ct.gov
Subject: I support HB 5067
Sent: Mar 7, 2012 10:55 AM

Is it too much to ask of our elected officials to be honest? It sure seems like it, because every time I turn around there's a new proposal to funnel money from useful projects into the pork trough. God forbid governments ever cut their budgets rather than raise taxes!

I support HB 5067, which says that train fares must be spent on trains, and not be redirected for other purposes. Infrastructure in Connecticut is positively medieval because successive generations of elected buffoons haven't invested in the future... and it's embarrassing to live and work around New York, which is being put to shame by other great cities around the world.

I don't expect very much from you, but I expect that the train fares I pay go toward maintaining the trains.

Thanks, Dave Boberski

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>

To: Pamela G. Terzakis <terzakisp@SHOFFDARBY.COM>

Subject: Re: Train Fare Hike

Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 10:54 am

Many thanks Pam!

Jim Cameron
V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: "Pamela G. Terzakis" <terzakisp@SHOFFDARBY.COM>
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:51:35 -0500
To: 'cj.strand@cga.ct.gov' <cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: 'ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com' <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Train Fare Hike

Please be advised I strongly oppose the Governor's intent/proposal of using the funds received from the proposed rail/bus fare increases for anything other than the related business of transportation. It is unfair to tax us - just the commuters- for unrelated expenses.

I commute daily from Guilford to Fairfield- Shoreline East/Metro North and have only ridden on the new cars twice. The condition of most older cars are deplorable. My understanding was that the fair hike monies would be used to replace those outdated and dirty cars with the newer ones. I am in total support of bill HB5067.

Thanks for your time.

Pam Terzakis

"Our Mission is to be a family organization committed to client service, caring for our employees and community involvement. We strive to grow through integrity and teamwork. "

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From: CTRailCommuterCouncil <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>

To: 'Karen V' <karenv@doyleins.com>

Subject: RE: train hike

Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 10:23 am

Many thanks Karen!

JIM CAMERON

From: Karen V [<mailto:karenv@doyleins.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:21 AM

To: cj.strand@ega.ct.gov

Cc: ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com

Subject: train hike

Please be advised I strongly oppose the Governor's intent/proposal of using the funds received from the proposed rail/bus fare increases for anything other than the related business of transportation. It is unfair to tax us - just the commuters- for unrelated expenses.

I commute daily- Shoreline East/Metro North and have yet to ride in the newer cars. The condition of most older cars are deplorable. I thought the bulk of the fair hike monies would be used to replace those outdated/ filthy cars with the newer ones. I am in total support of bill HB5067.

Karen W. Voos

*

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Gail Lavielle <gaillavielle@aol.com>
Subject: Fw: I oppose Malloy's theft of Metro North's fare hike money!
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 9:25 am

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Fichtel <ffichtel_fred_c@sboglobal.net>
Date: Wed, 07 Mar 2012 08:57:51
To: <cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>; <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: I oppose Malloy's theft of Metro North's fare hike money!

As a Metro North daily commuter from Stamford to NYC's Grand Central I strongly oppose the way Malloy has grabbed fare hike funds to balance his crummy budget.

This is a real ploy by Malloy to make himself look good with balancing his budget at the expense of rail commuters.

Metro North should get ALL the money from the hikes in order to maintain their service and equipment.

Governor Malloy's proposed budget is taking \$9+ million from the most recent fare hike and NOT spending it on rail operations or improvements.

In effect, that fare hike... and similar hikes to come in 2013 and 2014... are just a "tax" on commuters that may never be spent on Metro-North.

Why is this being allowed to happen?

What steps can be taken to void Malloy's action?

Is this action legal?

Oradee Fichtel

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Gail Lavielle <gaillavielle@aol.com>
Subject: Fw: HB 5067
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 9:25 am

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: <Mark.Wuest@barclayscapital.com>
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 09:22:56 -0500
To: <cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>; <Roland.Lemar@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: <cherie.santos-wuest@snet.net>; <CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: HB 5067

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I understand that the State Budget is a dynamic beast, but when it comes to what is right, there is nothing appropriate in increasing the burden on rail and bus commuters without using those funds to help improve the pitiful level of services we endure every day.

Mark Wuest

A daily commuter on Metro North.

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From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Gail Lavielle <gaillavielle@aol.com>
Subject: Fw: CT taxing commuter rail
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 9:04 pm

V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: "Andy Yemma" <ayemma@intermarket.com>
Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2012 19:13:59 -0500
To: <cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: Jim Cameron <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: CT taxing commuter rail

Dear sir: as a daily commuter from Westport to Manhattan, I have endured nearly two decades of decaying service on the New Haven Line. Standing room only was just part of the daily routine through this past year, and now just as we are finally getting some new equipment, and thought we were paying for it with 5% yearly fare increases, I learn from the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council that Gov. Malloy wants to use this revenue for purposes other than commuter rail.

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS AND MUST NOT STAND!

Connecticut is a commuter state and the bulk of its tax base comes from the Fairfield and New Haven counties where commuters are based. We need to encourage public transit, not let it continue to degrade as it did for decades under Republican leadership. As someone who supported and help elect Gov. Malloy, I find this appalling and want it stopped, NOW. No ifs, ands or buts. STOP THIS NONSENSE AND UPGRADE THE RAILS, NOT OTHERWISE.

Andrew Yemma
Managing Partner
Intermarket Communications
212 754-5450
ayemma@intermarket.com

From: CT Rail Commuter Council <ctrailcommutercouncil@gmail.com>
To: Andrew Greene <agreene@ignites.com>
Subject: Re: Support for HB 5067
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 9:03 pm

Many thanks Andrew...

Please alert your commuter friends as we need their help too!

Jim Cameron
V: 203-655-0138

Twitter: CTRailCommuters

From: Andrew Greene <agreene@ignites.com>
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 00:19:53 +0000
To: cj.strand@cga.ct.gov<cj.strand@cga.ct.gov>
Cc: CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com<CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Support for HB 5067

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this e-mail as my support for HB 5067. As a daily commuter on Metro North, I spend a good chunk of my time and money riding the rails. If Governor Malloy wants to increase fares, that money should go toward updating and improving Metro North, which suffers from overcrowding, delays and frequent maintenance problems.

I have been sitting on the sidelines on this issue, but this is the last straw. Malloy should not be allowed to get away with siphoning off my hard-earned money so some bureaucrat can dole it out however he sees fit. I'm ready to fight for HB 5067. I'm ready to fight to Malloy and his sleight of hand tax increases.

Sincerely,

Andrew Greene
Stamford Citizen and Metro North Commuter