

SEAT

SOUTHEAST AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT

February 29, 2012

Dear Member of the Transportation Committee:

Re: S.B. 112

Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) is submitting this testimony in order to express our strong opposition to the raised bill S.B. 112.

SEAT believes that the current legislation Chapter 103 (a) of the general statutes remains relevant in that it allows for the creation of transit districts in Connecticut and defines their roles and responsibilities and to this day it adequately serves the objectives of development, maintenance and improvement of systems for the transportation of people within the state.

S.B.112 would alter Chapter 103(a) by giving Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) unprecedented power over Southeast Area Transit District and could affect other transit districts such as Estuary Transit District and WRTD that come into our region, exhibiting and fostering regionalism.

The general Statues create a plan for the governance of the transit districts within the state. Currently there are nine (9) towns out of the 20 member towns of SCCOG which have committed to the transit district with funding obligations. The chief elected officials of these member municipalities are also members of the Council of Government, are free to replace or reappoint their director(s). The power which S.B. 112 would give to SCCOG takes control away from those member municipalities which are held accountable by their citizens regarding funding and services. We are adamantly opposed to giving control and final approval regarding budgets, professional contracts, audits and the appointment of the general manager to the SCCOG which has no direct financial stake in the district and of whose members have NO financial stake either. This would give even more representation to the SCCOG than the paying member towns.

This proposal would make major changes for SEAT by adding a totally new layer of unnecessary bureaucracy at best and at worst would hinder and cripple the functioning of the district as it was meant to function for the welfare of the citizens and for the development of the state's resources.

Southeast Area Transit District request that the Transportation Committee members oppose S.B. 112 and uphold Chapter 103 (a) as it is.

Respectfully,



Paul Altman
Chairman

ON THE MOVE FOR YOU!