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TESTIMONY OF MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

RE: Senate Bill 290 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR A PARKING STRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF MILFORD BEFORE the Transportation Committee, Monday, March 5, 2012.

Dear Legislators:

The Milford Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is a membership organization comprised of 650 business members. We have long been involved with and are familiar with the issues of parking in the City of Milford through our Parking Committee (that was put together over 5 years ago, to deal with parking issues in the downtown).

We are wholeheartedly in favor of the bonding for a parking garage to be located in the downtown.

We are joined in our support by Milford Progress, Inc., the official economic development agency for the downtown. MPI is currently working with the Yale Urban Design Workshop to update Milford's downtown plan of development. That process has identified multiple parking issues for commuters, retailers and businesses. Their final report will include a recommendation for just such a structure.

The Downtown Milford Business Association also readily supports a structure as they live and do business on a daily basis, also facing the above noted issues. Additionally, commuters using Metro North are parking in prime waterfront property, as well as along our streets, taking up valuable parking for our businesses and retailers. The above noted structure will help free up our local parking for customers and clients, thereby encouraging economic development by filling up store fronts and creating jobs.

We are strongly in favor of proposed Senate Bill 00290 and urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Lynda Smith Tellier (ka)

Lynda Smith Tellier
Legislative Action Committee
Chairman 2012