

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and Distinguished Members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Nancy Stula and I am the Director and Curator of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum located in New London. I am here today to ask for the Committee's full support of **House Bill 5393, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM IN NEW LONDON.**

Lyman Allyn Art Museum (LAAM) is an independent community-based Museum with non-profit status. We are fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Lyman Allyn's 32,000 square foot Neo-Classical stone building, designed by noted architect Charles Platt was completed in 1932. All New London residents enjoy free admission and we fully subsidize all field trips from the New London public schools. We serve the communities across Connecticut.

Museum's Art Collection. The Lyman Allyn is the only museum in Southeastern Connecticut to offer a comprehensive collection of European art as well as American fine and decorative art: our objects range from ancient Egyptian falcon mummies and ancient Greek painted pottery to 19th century landscape paintings and cutting-edge contemporary art. The permanent collection is comprised of over 10,000 objects. We preserve and keep this collection in trust for the community of New London and for all residents of Connecticut.

HVAC critical to preserving the artwork. The Lyman Allyn Art Museum requests a Bond of \$2.9M for the replacement of its failing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, a mechanical system critical to the maintenance of its collection of over 10,000 works of art. A major part of the mission of the LAAM is to protect and preserve its art collection for the enjoyment and education of the communities across Connecticut. Critical to preserving the works of art is proper temperature control and humidification in the environment in which the art collection is stored and displayed. Maintaining 50% humidity is recommended for preservation of paintings. Proper care of the collection through a functioning HVAC system is a requirement of the AAM for museum accreditation.

The LAAM's first HVAC system was installed in 1991. That system, which uses three boilers and a room-sized chiller along with 6 air handlers, is still in use after 21 years. The majority of the equipment has now exceeded its useful life. Although still running, a significant quantity of the existing equipment requires urgent replacement to avoid the impact of critical failure and decreasing efficiencies leading to increasing energy consumption and operational cost. (NOTE: one of the boilers has failed and its replacement has been funded by a DECD Bond issued by the State of CT to the LAAM in July, 2011 for repair of our flood-damaged auditorium and the failed boiler.)

Effort to reduce high energy consumption. Finally, the Lyman Allyn's energy consumption is comparable to a facility one third larger than the LAAM due to the age and the debilitated state of the existing heating and cooling plant. One of the three boilers, for example, uses 450 gallons of oil monthly. Annually, that is approximately 5,400 gallons of oil for just one of three boilers. The LAAM's energy costs are astronomical and must be reduced. A new, energy-efficient, HVAC system will reduce the LAAM's energy costs by approximately 30%. The recommended system replacements and upgrades work within the framework of the 2012 Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

Cost.

The \$2.9M requested for this project breaks down as follows:

- \$1.7M HVAC equipment replacement
- \$300k for contractor protection of building and builders' work in connection
- 27% mark-up for contractor plus overall team design fees and bonding legal fees

In summary the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London requests a Bond of \$2.9M for the replacement of its failing HVAC systems, a mechanical system critical to the maintenance of its collection of over 10,000 works of art held in trust for the communities of Connecticut. We would very much appreciate your full support in this Committee and also later in the legislative process of this important Bond request.

