

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY

TESTIMONY

Regarding

Proposed Bill No 5181 An Act Extending The Danbury Branch of the MetroNorth Railroad to new Milford

Before the

Committee on Transportation

February 13, 2013

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrera and members of the Committee the Housatonic Railroad appreciates having the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Proposed Bill No 5181.

The Housatonic Railroad operates a rail freight service between Danbury and Derby and between Danbury and Pittsfield, MA. If MetroNorth passenger service were extended from Danbury to New Milford, the extended operation would be over Housatonic Railroad's freight lines.

As more fully set forth below, Housatonic Railroad supports Proposed Bill No 5181 and the extension of passenger service to New Milford.

Connecticut DOT has commissioned numerous studies of this extension and there is wide public support for it in the region. For a number of years, Housatonic has studied the feasibility both of extending the commuter passenger service to New Milford and also of restoring passenger service between New York City and Litchfield County and Berkshire County, Massachusetts (to Pittsfield, MA). The extension of