

February 3, 2013

Senator Maynard & Representative Guerrero  
Co Chairs – Committee on Transportation  
LOB  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Proposed Bill No. 5383 – An Act Establishing a Task Force to Develop & Expand  
the Port of New London

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of the aforementioned bill for several reasons that I list below:

1. There has been much conjecture over the years about the possibility of having New London become more active in the cruise ship industry with New London becoming a more regular port of call. There has never been a formal study done by the Legislature to determine what it might take to make this happen. This bill would allow for the establishment of such a study, and the timing is perfect for New London now with all the economic activity being recently generated throughout the city in terms of redevelopment.
2. The regional benefits that will accrue to southeastern Connecticut as a result of increased cruise ship activity will be significant helping not only New London economically but the entire southeastern shoreline communities. Such a study would confirm this fact for the legislature.

The present organization to initiate cruise ship activity simply has not been able to sustain repeat business from the cruise ship industry, and it is time that we learn why and seek a new course of action to improve the frequency of port visits. A task force is the ideal approach to solving this problem and ultimately to begin bringing cruise ships to New London on a weekly basis.

It is for all of the above reasons that I support Proposed Bill No 5383.

Signed,

John S. Johnson  
Chairman  
OPSAIL CONNECTICUT