



City of New London
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 4, 2013

Testimony of Zak Leavy

Legislative Liaison for New London, CT

Good Morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Vice-Chair Senator Stillman and the Transportation Committee. I want to thank you for holding a public hearing on House Bill 5383 and I am here to testify in support of this legislation.

HB 5383 would allow a task force to help study and develop our port for cruise ships and bring much needed tourism to our City and region. New London has been lucky enough to have cruise ships visit our ports in the past. This bill will allow a task force to improve on that past experience and will help bring cruise ships and tourists back to New London and the Greater New London County.

New London is one of the only ports available for cruise ships in the State of Connecticut and increased tourism will immensely benefit the City. We have restaurants, art galleries, bars, music venues and the Garde Arts Theatre all located downtown. We will also have the announcement of the National Coast Guard Museum in the coming weeks. These businesses will all be helped by the passing of HB 5383 and the increased foot traffic in New London's waterfront and downtown district.

I am confident that a task force to develop and expand our port would allow us to correct any issues that may have existed in the past, and build a better experience for the future. I want to thank you again for holding a public hearing on this bill and urge passage.