



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

Testimony In support of Raised Bill no. 320  
An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Connecticut Trolley Museum.

**Commerce Committee Public Hearing**  
**March 6, 2014**

**Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the Commerce Committee. I am here to convey my strong support for Raised Bill 230: An act authorizing bonds of the state for the Connecticut Trolley Museum.**

Tourism enriches our state and bolsters our economy. Historical institutions such as the Connecticut trolley museum comprise a significant portion of Connecticut's tourism and yield economic benefits that allow our state to run smoothly.

Over the years, the Connecticut trolley museum has established itself as a major tourist attraction and has contributed to our state in several ways. The museum has served as an employer, supported local businesses through engaging them in labor contracts, and attracted thousands of people to our state.

In recent years, the museum's annual attendance has increased dramatically; rising from around 17,000 in 2010 to over 22,000 in 2013.

In light of the recent surge in the museum's popularity, a three phase plan that would allow for the expansion of the museum has been proposed. Completion of the first phase of this plan is projected to nearly double the institution's annual attendance and the second and third phases are expected to yield further increases.

In order to finance its proposed expansion plan, the museum has requested a state grant in the amount of \$3,950,000. The amount of money requested by the museum is undoubtedly substantial. However, the magnitude of the number is minimized when viewed alongside the benefits associated with the investment.

In 2013, the museum's budget was just under \$1/4 million and its attendance of around 22,000 visitors yielded a total economic activity of around \$800,000. The economic impact of an additional 20,000

visitors a year would raise the museum's annual budget to just under a \$1/2 million and its total economic activity to over \$1.5 million

In order to complete its first phase improvements, the museum plans to invest around \$2.5 million into Connecticut's labor and material market, thereby continuing its trend of contributing to the state's economy and ensuring the vast majority of the amount rewarded stays here in the state.

Over the last decade, more than 1/3 of the museum's visitors have come from out of state. Therefore, the prospective attraction of 20,000 additional visitors to the museum would likely result in an increase of nearly 7,000 new visitors to the state. While visiting our great state, they will eat, drink, shop, and perhaps stay overnight.

The Connecticut trolley museum has helped to keep our state strong throughout the years and its recent efforts to invigorate itself will simultaneously invigorate our state and its economy. Raised bill 230 would award just under \$4 million to allow the museum to expand on the progress it has made over the past few years and increase the positive impact the institution has had on our economy.

Given the track record of the trolley museum and the facts associated with their expansion plan, I believe that, if awarded, every cent of this grant will prove to be money well spent.

I support raised bill 230 and thank the committee for its time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Kiner

State Representative, 59th district