

**LITCHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL - DECD Line Item
Hilary Armstrong Testimony - Appropriations Public Hearing
Re: Biennial Budget (2C) 3-2-15 6.30pm**

To: The APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Even though I'm a Canadian living in Toronto, I feel I have a stake in the future of the Litchfield Jazz Festival (LJF) and, respectfully request my voice be heard on its behalf.

I've been to jazz festivals all over Europe and North and South America and none matches the unique quality of the LJF.

It's the devotion to the genre, the caliber of the artists, the intimacy of the setting and the surrounding beauty of the Litchfield Hills, among other things, that sets it apart.

Ever since my first taste of this very special event 9 years ago, I've been hooked, and each August a group of us make the 500 mile annual expedition to the Festival. Having been introduced to the charms of Litchfield County we now spend a week or so, afterwards, vacationing in the area. We rent vacation homes or stay in hotels. We eat in restaurants, shop in stores, visit local attractions and in general contribute to your economy. There are other festivals for lovers, like us, of this wonderful made-in-America art form. But it's the magic of the LJF that keeps drawing us back to Connecticut.

So, on behalf of all its passionate fans, I urge you to help keep the Litchfield Jazz Festival alive by restoring a \$50,000 line item to support it, awarded through DECD for the first time in 2014.

**Yours Sincerely,
Hilary Armstrong,
Toronto, Canada**