



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony of Representative Russell Morin, 28th District of Wethersfield
Commerce Committee Public Hearing
February 10th, 2015

**Regarding: HB 5983 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE
WEBB-DEANE-STEVENS MUSEUM IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.**

Thank you to the Commerce Committee for bringing this bill to the public hearing today. HB 5983 would allow the Webb-Deane Stevens Museum of Wethersfield to move forward in building a new on site education center.

The proposed 8285 square-foot facility has been architecturally designed to complement the existing museum structure, while also providing a practical lay out for a larger meeting space, staff offices, a new library, and museum and archival storage. Additional space would also expand program opportunities offered by the institute to be on a full year round basis. Currently, the museum closes for three months due to a lack of heated space for events. The museum has continued to work hard to raise funds for a portion of this project through their capital campaign. Assistance from the State to match their efforts would give momentum to the museum's long term goals of providing more services to its guests, while also increasing visibility and membership for the institution.

The Webb-Deane Stevens Museum is a destination for not only arts and history enthusiasts, but also those looking to experience quintessential New England traditions. Located in Connecticut's largest historic district, the complex has put Wethersfield on the map as an attraction for those traveling through the Greater Hartford Area. From its unique range of events and programs to tours of the historical structures, guests are



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captivated. The addition of a new education center, would truly enhance the visits of hundreds each year, while also attracting new guests

I thank you for your consideration of HB 5983. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell G. Morin".

Representative Russell Morin