

ROBERT FROMER

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February 5, 2015

Chairman, Co-chairman and Members
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re:

Dear Chairman, Co-chairman and Members:

I offer special thanks to the Environment Committee for conducting its hearing on the proposed bills.

I oppose funding of the proposed water taxi as an unnecessary waste of state tax money and a waste of fossil fuel energy. There is no essential need for a water taxi, which is, also, not a component of the state transportation plan.

Having lived in New London for about 40 years before moving to Windsor, I keep close interest in past and current events in the city.

It wasn't too long ago that New London experimented with a water taxi promoted by the Main Street Group, which was a colossal failure. The former executive director of Main Street lost her employment and then joined the Copp Estate in Groton about two years ago to create a new job for herself – a state funded water taxi.

The proponents of the bills suggest a loan program with repayment upon the profitability of the water taxi, which would only operate on weekends during the summer season. Net profit from such endeavor is purely a delusional fantasy.

A water taxi is not essential to success of the Thames River Heritage Park; tourists will visit without a taxi. Since Groton and New London desire the taxi, those towns or the Southeastern Council of Governments should provide the funding instead of the state. How can this Committee to justify a new state expenditure while it is facing a deficit?

Groton City Mayor Marian Galbraith submitted written testimony stating: “[o]ur residents look forward to being able to hop on the water taxi to go to the New London train station, to have

Environment Committee
Groton-New London Water Taxi
Testimony of Robert Fromer
February 5, 2015
Page - 2 -

dinner on Bank Street in New London or to go to the theater.” This is a perfect example of wasteful thinking infecting the budgetary process. The money would be better spent to fund environmental projects and programs at DEEP.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Fromer".

Robert Fromer
Environmental Consultant