

April 26, 2015

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

I am a CT constituent who likes to ride a bicycle for recreation and transportation. I am a member of Bike Walk Connecticut and the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I am committee chair of my local elementary school's Safe Routes to School program. I strongly support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. Please support HB 6840.

As a resident of Simsbury, I have seen firsthand how multiuse paths lead to economic development and vibrant town centers. People choose to live in Simsbury for a variety of reasons, but some reasons that are reported repeatedly by residents and community ranking studies, are the Simsbury's multiuse trail system and bicycle friendly transportation network. People also visit Simsbury for these reasons. Simsbury has seen an increase in tourism with the development of our multiuse paths and designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Additionally, national reports show that property values increase when there is easy access to greenways, and recruiting efforts improve for businesses. National trends show that young, educated adults are interested in decreasing car dependency and instead living and working in walkable, bikeable communities.

A first-rate active transportation network is an investment that will pay off in other areas, too. Eliminating common barriers to walking and biking will allow more people to use active transportation, and subsequently:

- Decrease pollution (health and environmental benefits)
- Decrease traffic congestion
- Reduce impact of transportation on global warming (environmental benefits)
- Increase physical activity, health and wellness for Connecticut residents (improved health and healthcare savings)
- Decrease costs due to death and injury in vehicular accidents with fewer people driving
- Decrease costs of bicycle/pedestrian collisions with motor vehicles due to unsafe infrastructure

Please help make all of Connecticut a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you.

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