

April 26, 2015

To: Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Subject: Please support HB 6840 and bike and pedestrian funding

I am writing in support of HB 6840. I am a parent, walk commuter, resident of Middletown, CT and member of Bike Walk Connecticut. It is extremely important to me to be able to walk and bike safely in my community. I believe 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 will help make Connecticut a safer place to bike and walk.

Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.

Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.

Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.

We want to bring more people to Connecticut, but we don't want to deal with more cars and congestion. Invest in safe infrastructure for biking and walking and we'll be able to accommodate new and current residents without overloading our highway system.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Baum

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