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To: FINtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Please support HB 6840 and bike and pedestrian funding

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

As a member of Bike Walk Connecticut, I 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.

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. I will be one of those people.

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.

Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. If anything, the proposal does not go far enough. I would readily support paying higher taxes if it meant the creation of bike infrastructure similar to those had in place like Portland, Oregon or Copenhagen, Denmark. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you.

Michael Byron Nelson

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