

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 for these important reasons:

- I will spend my vacation dollars in CT only if it includes a well-designed active transportation network that allows me and my family to use bike paths getting to the destinations that we would like to see. Mean-while I'll continue to travel out of state until there are safe and enjoyable bike paths available in CT. I often vacation and make day-trips to use bike paths in RI and MA. This is because unlike CT they make it safe and fun to reach a tourist destination by bike. Once there we almost always enjoy the nice shops and restaurants at the end as a reward for having journeyed there in an environmentally responsible manner.
- I go out of my way to use the bike paths that are available in CT and I notice I'm not alone. It's clear that people in CT want the health benefits of active transportation by using bike-ways as a way to run errands and to go to restaurants, shops and tourist spots.
- I bike to work and back 10 miles each way, over 50% of the days year round. I only stop commuting by bike when snow piles make it unsafe to do so. However I do not recommend commuting by bike to most people that express interest because of the unsafe pinch-points encountered on most roadways in CT that require highly experienced skills to safely navigate by bicycle. This is not a standard that CT should be content with. CT can and should do better, by making a widespread, safe interconnected network of bike ways.
- Environmental responsibility and support of the measures such as HB 6840 are a big factor in my vote of elected officials, and the direction that is vitally important to CT's future.

Please make such an active transportation system a top priority and pass HB 6840 now, as well as support similar measures in the future, until CT can finally be proud of such a system and make me want to stay in CT for my next bike outing.

Thank you,

Paul

Paul Kudra