

Planning and Development Committee

Testimony in support of

*Raised H.B. No. 6967 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CEDAR HILLS INFRASTRUCTURE  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN*

Matthew Goodkin  
The Anastasio Group

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Good Afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Miller, members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today and thank you to the committee for raising House Bill No. 6967 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CEDAR HILLS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN.

My name is Matthew Goodkin and I am the Director of New Business Development for The Anastasio Group. In my capacity with Anastasio, my job is to promote existing business lines and help new businesses grow. The legislation before you today will provide the vehicle necessary to take what has been a very fallow piece of land and develop the proper infrastructure needed to create future jobs that benefit the Town of North Haven, The State Connecticut, and the surrounding region. These jobs will be in the form of manufacturing, which utilize transportation, technology, and energy efficiency. I am here today to give you a brief overview of why this legislation is needed.

The Cedar Hill Rail Yard was once one of the largest rail yards east of the Mississippi. It was part of the economic engine that helped transform this country, and was the heartbeat of the great industrial past both here in Connecticut, as well as New England. As time went on, the industry in our state faded, the rail capacity shrunk, and now jobs and capacity are at a low point. We at Anastasio truly believe that this legislation can help transform this area to become the heartbeat of the region once again.

Our company currently operates New Haven National Rail Terminal & Transportation

Company, shipping and receiving thousands of railcars per year. We handle a wide variety of materials for many different customers, all of whom have a focus on rail-dependent functions. We are consistently communicating with businesses located all over the country who want to ship commodities either to or from our facility. Based on this direct knowledge of the market and demands on the market, we feel this location is uniquely positioned to become that engine once again.

However to do this, we need your help. It comes in the form of creating the Cedar Hills Infrastructure Improvement District and providing the tools needed to construct infrastructure suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation model. With this legislation in place, similar to previous Infrastructure District Legislation approved in the past, the necessary funding needed to build components required to attract various rail-dependent industries to the property can now be obtained.

These industries represent the new technology that is the future of Connecticut, the Region, and the Country as a whole. They include businesses such as CityWide Energy Action, here today in the audience, who is filing permits to develop an anaerobic bio-digester to meet the needs of the State to help prevent food waste from being deposited in landfills.

In closing, this legislation becomes the catalyst for the new sustainable economy in Connecticut, one built on transportation infrastructure, new technology, and energy efficiency.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.