

Dear Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to express strong support of H.B. 6343: An act concerning the restoration of the Housatonic Railroad line.

I am writing to you, as a resident of Connecticut, in support of updating and restoring passenger rail service through Northwest Connecticut, as described in Rep. Roberta Willis's proposed legislation HB 6343. This legislation is critical to the future of NWCT. Here are some of the benefits offered to the citizens of Connecticut:

1. Support existing businesses and increase tourism.
2. Attract young families and entrepreneurs.
3. Improve rail safety and decrease noise and vibration
4. Stimulate new local transport options and enterprises

I grew up in Great Barrington and rode on that line for many years. What a pleasure to travel with friends while talking, snacking and being otherwise "distracted" – something that no driver should be, but great for a rider on a train!

Yours sincerely,
Jeanné R. Chesanow
214 Cornwall Avenue
Cheshire, CT 06410