

Dear Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 6343: An act concerning the restoration of the Housatonic Railroad line.

I am writing to you, as a resident of Western Massachusetts, in support of updating and restoring passenger rail service through Northwest Connecticut, which I hope, with the cooperation of CT and MA governments can be expanded to service Western Massachusetts. I understand that the following bills: Representative Roberta Willis Proposed H.B. 6343; Senator Clark Chapin Proposed S.B. No. 495; Representative Cecilia Buck-Taylor Proposed H.B. No. 5228; and Representative Gail Lavielle Proposed H.B. No. 635, address this critical issue. As a young person who recently relocated from NYC to Western Massachusetts, I have consistently tried to convince my friends in NYC to visit and potentially move their businesses here, but the lack of quality transportation to and from NYC is the key impediment that my friends cite to exploring the area. This passenger rail service would be crucial for tourists to learn about the area and hopefully, move here in the coming years. Please support his vital initiative.

Yours sincerely,  
Matthew Chester  
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