

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Danine M. Chevarella. I commuted on Metro North for twenty (20) years. Six (6) of those years I was on the Waterbury branch line. I still live in Waterbury, but now work in a law firm in Bridgeport. My office hours make it difficult for me to utilize the Waterbury branch on a regular basis, however, last year when my car was being serviced for 3 days, I was able to use Waterbury Transit to get to the Waterbury train and then walk to my job in Bridgeport. I know several people who need this line to keep their jobs to support their families. Many people use the train to also walk to their jobs in Bridgeport and/or switch to other trains to get to their jobs in Milford, Stratford and beyond.

Service on this line needs to be improved, specifically the frequency of the trips to and from Bridgeport. It is vital for those who live on this line, who can't afford the daily drive to and from their jobs, and it is also vital to the cities and towns that the Branch services. The towns and cities the train services, could improve their downtown by attracting the commuters to their local businesses. If a commuter's mode of transportation temporarily is broken, the train is the backup they need so they can get to their

jobs, not lose pay for a day off and be able to live and support their families. Most people don't have jobs where they get paid for days off, whether snow related or otherwise, so this train is very vital to them and their families.

Please expand this line, do what it takes to help and encourage the commuters to use this vital Waterbury branch line. One thing I dislike is my long commute from Waterbury to Bridgeport and all the bad drivers on the road. My hours are 9-5 and the Waterbury train isn't convenient for my hours, however, I do use it on bad snow days and I do use it when I need my vehicle repaired. I would use the Waterbury train more often if there were more trains leaving Waterbury and not just 5:57am, 6:42am and 9:15am, give or take a few minutes. More commuters need another train in between the 6:42am and 9:15am train leaving Waterbury in the morning. The two trains before 7am get me into Bridgeport 1-2 hours before I have to be in work. The 5:55pm train is an hour after I leave work. There also needs to be a train leaving Bridgeport by 5:30pm, because the 5:55pm train is too late to have to wait when most of us get out at 5pm. I also use the Waterbury Branch line to go to NYC. The Waterbury Branch line serves many people for many different reasons and the wise and prudent thing to do would be to

expand it and use your resources on this vital transportation mode for the entire Valley and beyond.

Thank you for your time and consideration.