



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2014

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 495, *An Act Funding An Independent Study To Determine The Feasibility Of Restoring Passenger Rail Service From Danbury to The Massachusetts Border*.

This legislation would fund a study of expanding passenger rail service from Danbury to the Massachusetts boarder.

The Canaan-based Housatonic Railroad, which transports freight along its tracks through western Connecticut, moves products that otherwise, might be moved by trucks. Items such as lumber, plywood, limestone, plastics and pulp get transported by the railroad, saving wear and tear on our roadways and lessening highway congestion. The railroad performs an essential, but often overlooked, service to our state and region.

I feel with the importance of the Housatonic Railroad to the region it should be a priority for Connecticut to take steps to restore passenger rail service from Danbury to the Massachusetts boarder on the Housatonic Railroad. Passenger rail service coming through this region of our state would help the local economy, and provide a boost to the state's tourism industry. In addition to the jobs this project would create, it would also help provide area residents with transportation to nearby Fairfield and Westchester counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. McLachlan".

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District