

Connecticut Commuter Rail Council Member Confirmation
Testimony submitted by Stephanie Gregerman, 7 Greenes Alley, New London, CT

Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my qualifications to continue my service on the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

I am a commuter on both the Shore Line East and Metro-North trains between my home in downtown New London and jobs in New York City and Norwalk, and have been doing so for over three years. Prior to that, I traveled often between New York and New London via commuter rail, and for a short period of time, commuted every day via Amtrak between Providence and New London. In total, I have over twelve years of commuter rail experience on Connecticut commuter rail and Northeast Corridor lines.

As a resident of New London, I'm one of the few councilors who can provide input on Shore Line East commuter issues, like the November 2014 Amtrak ticket cross-honoring change, that forced Gov. Malloy to step to reverse Amtrak policy. As a rider of one of the more controversial cross-honored Amtrak trains, I've been able to give the council first-hand accounts of the number of Shore Line East riders on the train and provide feedback from the platform on the importance of these trains to people commuting from places like Mystic, which is currently not served by commuter rail.

I also served as the public relations and outreach resource for New London's Shore Line East/One More Stop (SLE/OMS) coalition in their successful efforts to secure weekend Shore Line East service to New London in 2012.

As part of the SLE/OMS team, I was immersed in all things Shore Line East and understand the bigger issues that impact rail decisions, while learning how working with legislators, CTDOT, and interested citizens can help create positive change. The work also confirmed my feeling that there are a lot of unheard voices who very much support a more robust rail agenda, and I can bring their concerns and thoughts to the rail council.

Finally, I know from years of rail commuting how critical a thriving and expanding rail system can be. Rail brought me to job opportunities in Connecticut that I would not otherwise have taken, and they have since brought me to testify here today. I'd like to help ensure those same opportunities are provided to others in a safe, comfortable and reliable way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephanie Gregerman