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To: The Connecticut Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
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Subject: My support for HB 6840 and bike and pedestrian funding

Good morning!

As a somewhat recent transplant to Connecticut, I am surprised by the lack of support for walking and biking that I found in such an old city. In many of the places I have lived, there are not only trails but people who commute by walking and bicycling, or who use them outside of work hours for transportation. I often park my car in Hartford on an evening or weekend and walk to various locations and events, but find others surprise that someone would do this and un-knowledgeable of places to park or that the option to walk/bike once in Hartford even exist.

For these reasons, I support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. I am asking you to also support HB 6840, for the reasons above, and for these:

- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them (and require them to be cleared of snow and debris, instead of letting them being used as a dumping ground as is currently done with "multiuse" pathways) and people will use them.
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class have in mind – the very persons who are key to a vibrant and growing city. In my short time in Connecticut I have seen great changes in the Hartford area which are driven by these two groups. A well-designed active

transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places can boost tourism immeasurably, either by bringing cyclists and cycling events to the city, or by offering tourists alternative ways of transport that they may be used to using in their home cities and towns, with benefits spreading throughout our economy. I know that when I travel, I rarely rent a car if I am going to be in a city-center, relying upon public transit and walking, and I have seen bike rentals in some cities that I plan to use when I take my helmet with me. I am sure that others will do the same, given the opportunity; some of my friends from Hartford do just that when they travel.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840, as so many of your constituents do.

Thank you.

Margo Lynn Hablutzel