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Testimony of Representative Susan Johnson  
Transportation Committee Public Hearing  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Regarding: HB 6334 An Act Concerning Public Transit Coordination**

Good afternoon Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you so much for hearing HB 6334 today. This bill would require that regional transportation districts coordinate their services between the various transit districts in Eastern Connecticut. I became involved with this issue during the summer months when I went to visit my local transit district, which is the Windham Regional Transit District (WRTD) to see whether computerized coordination of our bus stops between Mansfield and Windham could be placed on a Google Map for the convenience of our riders. Our ridership consists of a variety of people who are students from UCONN, ECSU, QVCC, and many employees who work in the local health care facilities or big box store in the area.

During my investigation regarding the computerization of the WRTD schedule, I also learned that there are many residents who need rides outside the WRTD district. Whether it is in the North East Transit District area to go to the Danielson or Putnam Court or to the South Eastern Transit District to work in the various health care facilities or the Casinos there is a lack of coordination that is hurting those who may be able to obtain work if they have the chance to move between regional transit districts for employment purposes and health care appointments.

Eastern Connecticut has areas that are rural with small towns and four small to medium urban centers. When the transit districts were created most urban centers provided employment for the regions in which they were located. Hence, transportation within a certain region for the most part addressed the transportation needs of the "region." As you are aware, today we have experienced a structural change in our economy. Hence, existing affordable housing may not be located in areas where employment opportunities exist so coordination is more important than ever in our new economy.