

RE: Proposed S.B. No. 495 AN ACT FUNDING AN INDEPENDENT STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FROM DANBURY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BORDER.

Dear Committee Members:

As a full-time resident of Kent for 23 years, I would like to register my objection to the proposed restoration of passenger train service from Danbury to Pittsfield.

You should be aware that widely-publicized views in favor of this measure are NOT shared by the majority of the residents of Kent, as was shown by a heavily-attended public meeting in Kent just a few years ago.

Currently this little town is rocked twice a day by freight trains passing directly through the center of town, and to increase this occasional menace to multiple -- probably 16 or more -- passenger trains every day would be devastating to a town that in addition to the noise and vibrations, is already dealing with a major traffic problem in the town center.

Sitting in the Fife 'n' Drum Restaurant, which is located just next to the tracks, one feels as if the train is rumbling THROUGH the building.

The claim that passengers would bring business to the small towns along the line is a highly romantic notion; in actuality it would lower Kent property values markedly, as well as presenting safety issues, such as the accident caused by the train this past year at the Kent "station" in which a load of railroad ties slipped off a car, destroying a good deal of the rear staircase of the building.

To the argument that the proposed passenger trains would not have to STOP in Kent, I would point out that they would still have to pass THROUGH the town, creating the problems I have mentioned above.

Converting the line to passenger service may seem like a good idea to anyone who would not be inconvenienced by living in the middle of it, but it would certainly be a travesty to Kent.

I hope you will oppose this measure.

Thank you,

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