



ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT

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February 29, 2016

To: The Transportation Committee
RE: Constitutional Amendment Establishing a Transportation Funding Lockbox
From: Joseph Comerford, Executive Director, Estuary Transit District

On behalf of the Estuary Transit District, I urge the committee to support the Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 1 "*A Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Protect the Resources of the Special Transportation Fund*" that requires all moneys designated for the Special Transportation Fund be used for transportation purposes only.

The Special Transportation Fund was initially created in 1983 with revenues in the fund to be used for transportation related projects. Since that time, those funds have unfortunately been used for non-transportation items.

Over and over, polls show the public believes that transportation is an important investment, and even support fees and taxes to fund these programs. However, Connecticut residents don't trust that these funds would truly be dedicated to transportation.

For this reason, I urge the legislators to deposit transit revenues into the STF and utilize them for transportation projects only by supporting the "lockbox" amendment. It is the only way our state can raise the revenues needed to provide us a first class transportation network to ensure our economic success into the future.