

## Mainiero, Phil

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**From:** mystic army navy <armynavy@snet.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:11 AM  
**To:** tratestimony  
**Subject:** testimony against the rail plan "Kenyon to Old Saybrook Bypass" as it currently stands

To: The Transportation Committee:

I am a resident of AND a business owner in Historic Downtown Mystic, Connecticut and I wish to express my deep concern for the Kenyon to Old Saybrook Bypass of the NEC Future in its CURRENT form.

While I support rail service in general and support efforts to increase the efficiency of such, and I applaud the vision to take into account the potential effects of climate change and future rising sea levels, the impact on the greater Mystic Connecticut's local tourist economies would be overbearing and would eradicate decades of diligent work to create world class attractions such as Old Mystic Village, the Mystic Aquarium and other supporting tourism related businesses that lie in the path of the currently proposed bypass. All of us in Downtown Mystic need the Olde Mistick Village to not only exist, but to flourish with full and productive businesses inside. We also deeply need the Mystic Aquarium as an important attraction, not only for marine life rehabilitation but for visitor contact. Here in Mystic, we have 4 very important landmarks: Downtown Mystic, Olde Mistick Village, the Mystic Seaport, and the Mystic Aquarium. You cannot cut us off at the knees by removing two of these.

Specifically, while I support some aspects of the NEC Future proposal and support improvements to rail service in general, I unequivocally OPPOSE this bypass in its current form. Please seek alternate means of accomplishing the mission without undue hardship on our economy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Michelle Gemma  
Owner, Mystic Army Navy Store LLC

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