

Monday, February 06, 2017

Attn: Connecticut State Legislature's Transportation Committee

RE: Public hearing on Proposed Rail Route, bypass through southeastern Connecticut,
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Dear Madam/Mr. Chairperson and Committee Members/Legislators,

I am writing this letter in support of the three proposed bills drafted by Rep. Carney and Rep. Formica, HJ 54, SB 253, and SB 263; and to express my opposition to the FRA's proposal to construct an alternative AMTRAK route between Old Saybrook, CT and Kenyon, RI.

I am opposed the construction of a new route, through our historic shoreline communities. There is no reason why repair/modification to the existing route is not the first choice for upgrading our rail system.

I am in full support of SB 253. Municipal approval should be required for any change to commuter rail service through an impacted community. Communities who are affected by any change have a right to be considered, heard, and have the final say, as they have the best interest of the community at heart.

In conjunction with SB 253, I agree with bill SB 263. The state should be prohibited from expending funds on rail projects that do not have municipal approval through a referendum.

I have been extremely concerned how the FRA's process has moved forward since their plan was brought to public attention. It is widely apparent that there was an agenda from the beginning that was not to include the interests or contributions of the affected communities. Shortening a mere 45 minutes off the transit time from DC to Boston, is not a goal worth achieving at the expense of irreparably disrupting numerous historical communities, ecosystems, wetlands, community aesthetics...the list goes on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Heidi Meyer, resident Lyme, Connecticut