

**Testimony of Edward Silk, Resident of Old Lyme CT  
To the CT Transportation Committee Hearing to be held on Monday February 6, 2017**

To the State of CT Transportation Committee Hearing Members:

Please be advised that I and my wife (Deborah Silk) who have been residents and property owners in Old Lyme, CT for the past 20 years, **fully support HJ No. 54 and Acts SB 253 and SB 263** regarding the FRA's (Federal Rail Authority) proposed high speed rail bypass construction from Kenyon, Rhode Island through Old Lyme to Old Saybrook.

The FRA's devious efforts from 2011 through 2015 to withhold knowledge of an overview or any detailed planning for this project from the Shoreline CT communities and their local governments who would be directly impacted by the proposal, was truly outrageous.

Amtrak VP Stephen Gardner's subsequent disingenuous testimony before US Senator Richard Blumenthal in public Congressional hearings that were held during July 2016 in Washington, DC was similarly outrageous. During these subcommittee hearings, Gardner testified to Senator Blumenthal that the FRA and NEC Future administrators had been working closely with local Shoreline communities to make local residents aware of these plans throughout the over 4 year plan development period, which could not be further from the truth.

I fully support and applaud the efforts of Senator Formica and Representative Carney in their efforts to block the further development of plans to explore and construct the Kenyon/Old Saybrook high speed rail bypass and encourage the FRA to pursue the **NEC's Alternative 2**, which included the alternative positioning of the new High Speed rail tracks to run directly from Providence RI through to Hartford and then on into New Haven. **Alternative 2** also has the added benefit of bringing the benefits of expanded rail service to higher population density urban areas of Northern CT.

Sincerely,

Edward Silk  
Resident of Old Lyme CT

Prepared by E. Silk on 2/5/2017