

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-868

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR COMMERCIAL RAIL

Title: FREIGHT LINE IMPROVEMENTS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding

PH Date: 2/25/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will allow for an additional \$12.5 million in bonds for commercial freight line grants. This is so that freight lines can be maintained and updated which have been neglected in other fiscal years.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

President, Vice-President, General Council, Naugatuck Railroad Company: Testified in favor of increasing the bonded amount for updating and maintaining the aging freight railways; in order to keep highway congestion lower and support businesses in Connecticut.

John Piscopo, State Representative, CT General Assembly: Rep. Piscopo testified to support Connecticut in updating its railway infrastructure.

Edmond Mone, First Selectman, Town of Thomaston: Selectman Mone supports this bill as the railways support the state's economy and provide many services to the Naugatuck Valley areas.

Dourlas Low, Marketing and Sales, Genesee & Wyoming Company: They are in support of this bill because of its enhanced funding, creating more opportunities to help grow

Connecticut's economy and shift a relevant portion of the growing demand for freight transportation off of Connecticut's already strained road network.

Jennifer Bahre, Canton, CT: Testified in favor of this bill because "freight rail improvements are needed for Connecticut to stay competitive with other northeastern states in attracting and keeping rail-served businesses."

James Gagliardi, Milford, CT: Supports this bill and the idea of supporting freight rail infrastructure.

Robert Martincheck Jr.: Supports the bill as a way to support the reduction of traffic on the roadways.

John Springer: Supports the updating of freight rail infrastructure as a way to keep heavy trucks off of the roads.

Amedee Belliveau, President, Central New England Railroad: Supports this bill as means of lowering carbon emissions, protecting the roads, as well as the railway's ability to supply jobs for the state.

Steve Casey, President, Railroad Museum of New England: Supports this bill for the many years of railway improvements that are needed on the freight line railways.

Rick Dunne, Executive Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments: Supports this bill for the less damaging environmental impacts it has compared to the trucks that will emit more carbon and wear on the roads.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Brittney Hedges

Date: March 27, 2019