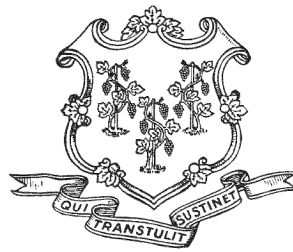


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**Testimony in favor of
Senate Bill 775: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT LOOP TRAIL**

Co-Chairs Leone and Lemar, Vice Chairs Bergstein and Simms, Ranking Members Martin and Devlin, and distinguished member of the Transportation Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 775: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT LOOP TRAIL**.

If approved, this legislation would require the construction of a trail from East Hampton through Portland, Middletown, Meriden and Cheshire, facilitating multimodal access through the Meriden railroad station. This would result in the creation of the new "Central Connecticut Loop Trail" by combining the Air Line Trail and the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail.

This would not just provide a new trail, but connect two of Connecticut's largest trails together in the process. The resulting trail would be more than 100 total miles and stretch across much of the state, creating a new attraction that will show off Connecticut's natural environmental beauty while supporting health and wellness for its users both locally and state-wide. It would also allow residents to bike or walk to work in some situations, giving them increased choice of transportation.

The Loop Trail would also lead to economic benefits for the state as it would become a tourist attraction and a feeder to towns' Main Streets. The Trail would facilitate the creation of trailside businesses to serve the trail's runners, bikers, and walkers.

This trail would greatly benefit not only my constituents in the 13th district, but allow for new recreational and economic opportunities for citizens across the state. I urge all of you to support Senate Bill 775. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and I look forward to working with all of you this session.