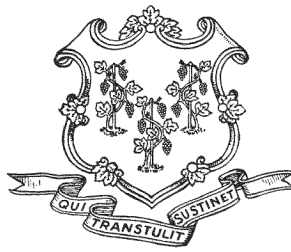


SENATOR NORM NEEDLEMAN

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State of Connecticut

SENATE

Thirty-third District

Chair
Energy & Technology Committee

Vice Chair
Banking Committee

Member
Commerce Committee
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Transportation Committee

February 13, 2019

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, honorable Ranking Members, Vice Chairs and members of the Transportation Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 775: An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail.

Connecting the Air Line Trail and Farmington Canal Heritage Trail -- by creating a third trail through Portland, Middletown, Meriden and Cheshire -- would directly benefit residents of the 33rd district, and across the state.

There increased opportunity to improve health and wellness. These trails would offer a direct route through the Connecticut wilderness, letting residents bike, jog or walk through our beautifully wooded forests while giving them new opportunities to exercise and improve their own personal health.

The creation of another loop would also offer increased access to transportation. These trails would allow nutmeggers to walk or bike to their desired destination instead of taking other means of transportation. With this new freedom of choice, residents can save money on gas and reduce their use of fossil fuels.

Tourists from across Connecticut, and our neighboring states, would come to bike through unexplored pockets of the state or walk through their favorite small towns. The draw of a new trail will highlight our main street restaurants and town center mom and pops, providing additional opportunities for our businesses to grow and thrive.

As this trail would extend through towns in my district, I can see a direct benefit from its creation, one that would bolster health, wellness and economic opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norm Needleman".

Norm Needleman
State Senator 33rd District