



TOWN OF GROTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

John Burt
Town Manager
jburt@groton-ct.gov

45 Fort Hill Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
Telephone (860) 441-6630 Fax (860) 441-6632
www.groton-ct.gov

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State of CT, General Assembly
Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

Subj: Town of Groton Support for HB 5423

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 5423, An Act Concerning the Expansion of Passenger Train and Ground Transportation Services in Eastern Connecticut. The bill would require the Commissioner of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study and develop and operational plan to extend the Shore Line East rail line to Rhode Island, establish a new branch line to be known as the Norwich Branch Line with a plan to provide service to Massachusetts at a later date, extend ground transportation systems in eastern Connecticut to provide interconnection between such systems and establish new passenger train stations in Groton and Stonington Borough, and to submit the results of such study and plan to this Committee.

The proposed expansion of services would support true transit oriented development (TOD) by creating appropriate connections between currently unconnected transit systems to better effectuate the movement of people from home to work (and play). There would also be associated benefits including a reduction in air pollution including CO₂, a reduction of traffic congestion, a reduction of commuting time, a reduction of road and highway maintenance costs, and would help support and continue southeastern Connecticut as a major industrial and tourism center greatly contributing to the overall success of the State of Connecticut. In conclusion, I strongly support this bill and encourage all members of the Transportation Committee to do the same.

Respectfully,



John Burt, Town Manager

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