

Representative Lamar, Senator Cassano and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Frederic Fischer and I am a resident of Groton, Connecticut. I write in support of House Bill Number 5423, an act concerning the expansion of passenger train and ground transportation services in eastern Connecticut.

I believe that rail service should be expanded in eastern Connecticut, in particular to the towns of Groton and Stonington, the City of Groton and the City of New London. This would be of great benefit to the region for several reasons.

First, it would help economic development. The expansion of train and ground transportation services would alleviate traffic congestion, delays and accidents, as well as parking problems. It would provide safer and more convenient commuting for workers in our area, such as those at Electric Boat, Pfizer and the Navy Sub Base.

Secondly, the expansion would improve our connection with other parts of Connecticut and with neighboring states both for business travelers and visitors. You can get work done while on a train. And it would benefit tourism as well as visits to friends and relatives.

Third, an enlightened transportation policy can help mitigate the growth of greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. Residents and visitors alike would benefit from cleaner air.

Which brings me to a more personal interest. My wife and I enjoy visiting relatives in New York City and hosting them here. I'd rather travel by train than by car on a crowded (and dangerous) highway. Better rail connections would certainly be a great help.

I urge passage of Proposed Bill No. 5423.

Respectfully,

Frederic Fischer

February 18, 2021