



# THE CITY OF GROTON

Mayor Keith Hedrick

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February 17, 2021

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

Re: City of Groton Support for Senate Bill 5423

Dear Esteemed Members of the Transportation Committee:

The City of Groton offers support for SB 5423 entitled, "An Act Concerning the Expansion of Passenger Train and Ground Transportation Services in Eastern Connecticut." This bill would require the Commissioner of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study and develop an 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 submit the results of such study and plan to this Committee.

This bill would greatly improve transportation options within the City of Groton. Pfizer and Electric Boat are two of the largest employers in Southeastern Connecticut. Establishing a commuter rail service connecting these businesses would reduce traffic congestion and emission of greenhouse gases while improving parking issues and spurring economic development within the City of Groton.

In conclusion, the City of Groton strongly supports this bill.

Sincerely,

Keith Hedrick