

Testimony and/or Statement: From Sarah E. Kelly 2/19/21

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

My name is ___Sarah Kelly___, and I live in ___Groton_____ (town/city.) I am offering testimony via written testimony in support of: **HOUSE BILL NUMBER 5423**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF PASSENGER TRAIN AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT.

In my opinion **House Bill 5423** would significantly benefit the region and public transportation in Connecticut.

The major advantages to the Bill, as I see it, are to expand the rail infrastructure allowing the connection of CT, RI, NY and MA. Rail expansion has the advantage of reducing the Green House Gas emissions for our area. This will be a significant contribution in our move to being carbon neutral. As a member of the Town of Groton Task Force for shoreline Resilience and Sustainability, we have looked at the impact of climate change to our area. Urgent action is needed to address the impact of emissions.

As a passenger on the Shoreline East commuter line, the advantages of this expansion will bring in new riders as well as decompressing road use and commuting by car. It will have a positive impact on key businesses in our area as well as supporting tourism.

I urge passage of House Bill 5423 and expanded passenger rail service for eastern Connecticut. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Sarah E. Kelly
2/19/21