



TOWN OF STONINGTON

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
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State of CT, General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Town of Stonington Support for HB 5243

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the 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 an operational plan to extend the Shore Line East rail line to Rhode Island, establish a new branch known as the Norwich Branch Line, 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.

As Stonington is located halfway between New York City and Boston, this proposed expansion enhancement would support those commuting for work purpose, as well as those wishing to visit our town.

As employers such as Electric Boat are expected to expand their workforce by up to twelve thousand employees with roughly eighty percent of their employees living outside of Groton having a linked commuter train service will be an added attraction for those wanting to live in Stonington or other surrounding towns within our region.

Lastly, the extension and connection of these rail lines would be beneficial in reducing highway traffic congestion, carbon emissions, highway maintenance costs as well as providing alternative methods of transportation for our residents.

I strongly support this bill and encourage all members of the Transportation Committee to do the same.

Warm regards,

Danielle Chesebrough
First Selectman