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Nancy Codeanne, Chair for the Town of Groton Housing Authority
HB 5423 Testimony Statement

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

As Chairperson for the Groton Housing Authority I am writing in full support of an amendment to section 13b-79p of the General Statutes requiring 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 and establishing a new branch line (Norwich Branch Line) with service to Massachusetts, as well as extend ground transportation systems in Eastern Connecticut providing interconnection between such systems and establishing new passenger train stations in Groton and Stonington Borough.

With the creation of new housing complexes in Groton and limited accessibility to public transportation, the extension of the Shore Line East line would not only provide convenient commuter services but would provide the citizens of Groton and other towns east of the Thames River, a vital link to other communities in Connecticut and beyond. The feasibility study and operational plan proposed by HB5423 will help guide growth in a section of the state that is seeing population increases and would benefit greatly by transportation planning.

While the Groton Housing Authority provides housing for the elderly and disabled population, the prospect of safe, convenient, and manageable transportation links for them would be an amazing step forward. As this segment of the population is growing and aging in place, the need for public transportation becomes vital.

I believe the pros outweigh the cons as we continue to struggle with air pollution, deteriorating infrastructure, an aging population, and issues of economic development.