



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 155:  
*An Act Concerning Rail Infrastructure Improvements.*  
Transportation Committee  
February 24, 2020**

Co-Chairs Leone and Lemar, Vice Chairs Bergstein and Simms, Ranking Members Martin and Devlin, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee:

I would like to thank the Committee for raising **Senate Bill 155, *An Act Concerning Rail Infrastructure Improvements***, which would commission the Department of Transportation to study rail issues in the state, including but not limited to, that of the Waterbury Branch of the Metro-North Railroad.

As state representative of the 76<sup>th</sup> House District, which encompasses Burlington, Harwinton, Litchfield, and Thomaston, I can attest to the Waterbury spur rail line being an important asset to the Naugatuck Valley and our state for many reasons, and that importance is only increasing. As the costs of living continues to rise in the Greater New York City area north and east to Stamford, the population moves toward more affordable living. It has been my observation, and it will be born out in the results of this year's census, that the valley is seeing an increase of young professionals that are employed in New York City and the Greater Stamford area. In dealing with the increase in cars on Route 8 and the complications arising from it, the improvements contemplated for the Waterbury Line would relieve several of them as well as lessen pollution. With the relatively modest improvements offered in a proposal from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, we can see the Waterbury Rail Line fulfill its historic function of providing safe, clean, reliable transportation for the growing number of people who consistently ride the rail.

**Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 155, and I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to advance such important legislation.**