



Dear Members of the Commission.

My name is Ilona Somogyi, and I am the President and Co-Founder of Ball & Socket Arts in Cheshire CT.

I am writing to you in support of HB6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism Funding.

Ball & Socket Art's mission is to convert a historic button manufacturing factory to a mixed-use arts and cultural center to Cheshire, CT that will will become a new tourist attraction for central Connecticut built on Culture, Arts and Historic Preservation. Old Factories, given new life as cultural centers have successfully driven economic development in towns like Cheshire across the country while improving the lives of people in the area and benefitting nearby businesses.

Funding for the Arts and Tourism is vitally important for my project, my community and the economic development of Connecticut. I am an arts profession and have dedicated my life to working in the arts and educating future art makers. I urge you to act on this issue in order to make a substantial impact on the Arts and Culture sector in the state.

I would be happy to connect with you, explain my point of view, and provide other resources for you to fully understand the importance of this issue to my community.

Thank you for your hard work,
Sincerely

Ilona Somogyi
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