

Testimony Guide to Support HB 5429 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

You're ready to write some testimony? Great! The template should help! As you modify it for your testimony, don't forget to:

- Replace the *yellow italics* with your own writing
- Remove all instructions and suggestions!

Dear Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is *[Insert Your Name Here]*, I am from *[Insert Town]*, Connecticut. *[If representing an organization: I am here representing [Your Organization], which is a [Describe organization].]* I support Bill No. ____, An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Development.

[Next, explain why zoning that puts more housing around train stations is important to you or your organization. Tell your story!]

- *Explain who you are:*
 - *An environmentalist who wants to create walkable communities so we drive less?*
 - *A senior who wishes to downsize?*
 - *Someone who wants to move closer to a transit station but cannot find affordable options?*
 - *A young person who wants to live somewhere other than a large-lot house?*
 - *A person with a disability who wants more freedom?*
 - *Just an interested person?*
- *If you are representing an organization, explain:*
 - *The mission of your organization*
 - *How your organization relates to zoning*
 - *The constituencies your organization represents*
 - *How many members you have*
- *Consider discussing the way you get around.*
 - *Do you drive more than you like? How does that impact your quality of life?*
 - *If you do not drive, why not? (preference, safety, disability, etc. - to the extent you're comfortable saying)*
 - *Do you use trains now? Would you, if it was easier to live near stations?*
- *Do you have thoughts about how putting housing around transit will help revive the economy? Feel free to use your experience as an unemployed person, an employed person, a student, a business owner, etc.*
- *Conclude by explaining why you are "pro-homes." A home means something to all of us. It can be your family, your community, where you work, live and play. Why is it*

so important for Connecticut to enable us all to enjoy a home?

[If you'd like conclude with some stock policy language, consider something like the following - but please paraphrase:]

Transit-oriented development will encourage the development of equitable communities around Connecticut's train stations and CTfastrak stations. These communities will be more inclusive and accessible, more environmentally sustainable, and more economically and socially dynamic. Developing homes around transit will capitalize on investments that our state and taxpayers have already made in our public transportation infrastructure.

[Last, close and thank the committee. Here's an example:]

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support Transit-Oriented Development this year and make this legislative session a pro-homes one.

Thank you for your time,

Your Name [if applicable: Your Title and Organization]