



West Haven Chamber of Commerce

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April 30, 2010

Dear Governor Jody Rell:

We are writing to you to express our concerns over the elimination of the proposed Parking Garage feature of the West Haven Train Station and the reduction in parking spots.

Our understanding of the approved plan, from 2009, included approximately 1,200 parking spaces; 650 which were designated for the Parking Garage and 450 for surface parking spots. The impact of the loss of approximately 600 parking spaces will have a negative impact on the neighborhood and local businesses and the region.

The advantage of the original proposed Parking Garage was designed to provide convenience, safety and protection from all elements as well as direct access to the platforms. This concept was to make the West Haven Train Station the most accessible and the most desirable way to travel and commute. The goal is to reduce traffic and congestion on the I-95 corridor and to attract as many commuters as possible. In your own words with respect to the Fairfield Station, "We cannot get people out of their cars and into trains unless we give them a good, clean, clear, safe parking facility and good clean trains on which to ride." (published April 29, 2010)

We feel very strongly that the alternative of eliminating the Parking Garage from the original plan will be a major detraction from the use intended. We understand that the garage may be forthcoming at a later date but, we believe that the garage is absolutely necessary to the success of this HUB from the beginning. Later construction of the garage will pose a reduction in parking and further disruption to the Train Station use and desirability. Now is the time to take full advantage of the economic factors (including construction costs) which may be most attractive at this time. We believe that the budget proposed for the project is adequate to cover the cost of the parking garage, and that revenue generated from the garage would more than offset the cost.

The realization of the West Haven Train Station has been a long time in coming and the focus and primary purpose should remain to make this HUB the most attractive and successful station in Southern Connecticut.

We beseech you to look hard and fast at the necessity for the best and safest possible parking situation and we ask that you do everything in your power to ensure that the Parking Garage becomes a reality for all our citizens. We believe that the inclusion of a Parking Garage is necessary to the success of the project from the onset.

We sincerely request that all of your efforts be directed to the matter of the Parking Garage as planned. The time to ensure the success of this HUB is now, not later.

We thank you for your support in this matter.

This letter represents the concerns and opinions of the Board of Directors of the West Haven Chamber of Commerce. The West Haven Chamber represents over 400 businesses.

Respectfully,

Margaret Bucknall
Co-Chairman of the West Haven Chamber of

Commerce

Legislation Committee