



OCEAN COMMUNITY
CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE

January 24, 2025

Doug Brockway
Chair-Westerly EDC
Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

Dear Mr. Brockway,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to offer our full support for the modernization and infrastructure enhancements at the Westerly Train Station.

The 2023 Eastern CT Corridor Rail and Transit Feasibility Study (ECRTS) underscores the potential advantages of extending the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Shore Line East commuter rail service to Westerly. Proposed upgrades, such as high-level platforms, are set to greatly enhance station efficiency, safety, and accessibility for passengers.

These infrastructure improvements align with the Town of Westerly's broader vision, as outlined in its Comprehensive Community Plan, and will play a critical role in achieving the region's goal of bolstering transportation connectivity. Working in partnerships with agencies such as RIDOT and AMTRAK is crucial to realizing these ambitions. By establishing a stronger rail connection, we will not only enhance tourism but also support the local year-round economy, benefiting both businesses and residents.

We firmly believe that these efforts will lead to tangible economic growth for the Ocean Community and the greater Westerly area. Making our transportation system more accessible, efficient, and environmentally sustainable will be a key driver in the region's ongoing economic development. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we strongly advocate for this initiative, which will undoubtedly have a lasting, positive impact on our regional economy.

Sincerely,

Joanna Valentini

Serving business, industry, and tourism in southeastern Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island

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