



The Business Council of Fairfield County

Press Statement

March 8, 2006

For Immediate Release

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Business, Environmental Organizations Call for Major Investments in State's Transportation System

HARTFORD, CT – Two of Connecticut's leading environmental and business organizations joined today in prioritizing key state investments in Connecticut's ailing transportation system – an issue over which environmental advocates and business leaders often find themselves at odds. To download the statement in pdf format, visit: www.cfenv.org/transportation/News/2006/joint_statement.pdf, or www.businessfairfield.com.

Connecticut Fund for the Environment and The Business Council of Fairfield County praise the efforts of Gov. M. Jodi Rell, House Speaker Jim Amann and Senate President Pro Tempore Don Williams, who have called for major state transportation investments.

“While our single biggest source of homegrown air pollution comes from too many cars and trucks stuck in traffic, Connecticut residents spend more and more time trying to go further distances alone in cars on more heavily congested highways,” said Curt Johnson, program director for Connecticut Fund for the Environment. “Investments in solutions that are clean, energy efficient, and support tighter knit communities built around transit centers are long over due.”

Business and agency experts developed a blueprint for transportation investments through the Transportation Strategy Board. Gov. Rell has chosen important elements for investment including last year's investment in new rail cars for the New Haven line. This year Speaker Amann and Senate President Williams have offered their own initiatives that call for comprehensive investments to improve Connecticut's struggling transportation system. Business and environmental leaders have worked together to identify key strategic projects to create a transportation system that will improve the region's economy, protect our natural environment and reduce unacceptably high health risks from vehicle exhaust.

“Transportation improvements are the keystone to economic growth and vitality in this state,” said Joseph McGee, vice president, public policy and programs, The Business Council of Fairfield County. “Without this investment, economic growth in Connecticut will be severely strained and the ability to create jobs will be damaged.”

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Connecticut Fund for the Environment

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