

# ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *The Valley Railroad Company Honors Senator Eileen Daily*

**ESSEX, CT** - - The Valley Railroad Company, on the occasion of its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on **July 29, 2006**, will extend its sincerest appreciation and thanks to Connecticut State Senator Eileen Daily for her years of assistance and support to its operations. Several years ago Senator Daily was instrumental in forming a coalition whose work resulted in obtaining approximately \$1,000,000 in funding to restore and rebuild five key bridges that were critical to the Valley Railroad's ability to keep its line open.

The current railroad was founded in 1971, on the 100th anniversary of the original Connecticut Valley Railroad Company, which 135 years ago provided service from downtown Hartford to Old Saybrook. The restoration of these important bridges assists the railroad in its operations, which carry approximately 150,000 rail and boat passengers a year. These assets through the years have brought millions of riders and tens of millions of dollars in valued tourism revenue to the local communities that Senator Daily represents.

Attorney Robert Galiette, a member of the Valley Railroad Board of Directors for the past 17 years, commented, "We're extremely fortunate to have the interest and support of a highly-ranked member of State Government such as State Senator Eileen Daily, who understands our challenges in operating a living museum. We maintain and run historic 80-year old equipment under live steam, repair track, operate a companion boat company, and advance all the ticketing, advertising and retail operations of a seasonal tourist attraction. Without the assistance of Senator Daily it would be difficult to maintain our current level of operations, which seamlessly bring so many persons along scenic track and onto the ecologically important estuary area of the Connecticut River."

Senator Eileen Daily has been a member of the Connecticut State Senate for 14 years and represents the towns of Chester, Colchester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Portland, Westbrook and a portion of Old Saybrook. She holds senior positions as Chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee, and Vice Chairperson of both the Public Safety Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

*In thanks and gratitude for Senator Daily's many years of assistance to its operations, the Valley Railroad is presenting to the Essex Library, in Senator Daily's honor, a framed picture of one of the Railroad's vintage steam engines in operation. **The presentation is scheduled for 12:00 Noon, Saturday, July 29, 2006, at Essex Steam Train & Riverboat.***

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