(*Washington*) – Today **Congressman John B. Larson** congratulated Rebecca M. Townsend, Ph.D. of Manchester, Connecticut, for being recognized as a 'Champion of Change' by the White House. The Champion of Change program, part of President Barack Obama's Winning the Future initiative, honors those who help their communities through transportation innovation.

"I am honored to recognize Rebecca Townsend as a recent White House Champion of Change," said Congressman Larson. "Her work to increase youth participation in government is vital for the future success of our communities. This recognition is yet another example of the great innovators and educators we have in Connecticut's education system, and I look forward to seeing her continued commitment to her students."

Rebecca M. Townsend is currently an Associate Professor of Communications at Manchester Community College (MCC). At MCC she serves as the Principal Investigator for the Partnership for Inclusive, Cost-Effective Public Participation, a program initially funded in 2009 by a competitive grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Public Transportation Participation Pilot Program. The MCC program aims to train students to facilitate meaningful discussion and increase their knowledge of transportation planning through communications class work and community service.

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