

**TESTIMONY
ROBERT "GABE" DELUCA
MINORITY LEADER
STAMFORD BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 17, 2006**

RE: Support of SB-666, An Act Concerning Municipal Liens for Accrued Fines and Certain Code Violations

Due to prior commitments I am unable to attend this important meeting to urge your **support for SB-666**. To merely say that passage of this Bill will play an important role in the safety of the residents that reside in these facilities would be an understatement. Unfortunately during the previous session the Senate passed SB-691 and the House failed to pass their version. As a result of this failure, communities continue to be burdened with unsafe and illegal buildings which also leads to the deterioration of neighborhoods.

On behalf of the Fire Fighters and Health Department employees, to name a few of the departments that must care for the safety of all buildings, I urge you to pass SB-666. I can understand the pressure you are enduring at the hands of the Mortgage industry lobbyists who do not want liens placed on property as the result of zoning/building violations. However we must make the safety and welfare of the people our primary goal. Unless the municipalities are given the tools to work with, such as the bill before you today, safety and quality of life will continue to erode.

I have seen children with Asthma living in illegal units, it is heart wrenching and how many times have we seen and read about people and Fire Fighters losing their life in these structures. Please make pass this SB-666 and then use your influence to get the House to pass a similar bill. The people in all 169 communities need your help; do not fail us.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this testimony. I am confident that the other 39 members of Stamford's Board of Representatives share my concerns.