



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ANTHONY J. D'AMELIO**  
SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

64 WELLINGTON AVENUE  
WATERBURY, CT 06708  
TELEPHONE  
HARTFORD: 1-800-842-1423  
HOME: (203) 574-3434  
E-MAIL: Anthony.DAmelio@housegop.ct.gov

**ASSISTANT MINORITY MEMBER**

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

## Commerce Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

### Public Hearing Testimony On:

**House Bill 5883, An Act Concerning Funding for the Silas Bronson Library, for Waterbury Industrial Commons, and Amending the Urban and Industrial Site Reinvestment Program.**

**Presented by Representative Anthony J. D'Amelio, 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Representative McMahon, Representative Ruwet, Members of the Commerce Committee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 5883, which would provide funding for the City of Waterbury to form a public-private partnership that would remediate and develop the Waterbury Industrial Commons, and to establish a greenway biking and walking trail that will connect with Naugatuck.

The City of Waterbury will make a sizeable investment in the property to enable the Public Works Department and the City Yard to be consolidated at a single centralized location.

Companies currently doing business at the site also will make a significant investment in the project.

The site, the former Chase American Brass property, is a contaminated brownfield that has been in need of remediation for many years.

After the contaminants are removed, the development of the Waterbury Industrial Commons – and the greenway biking and walking trail – can go forward.

The new employers that will move to the Waterbury Industrial Commons will create new jobs for Greater Waterbury residents and enhance the city's tax base. The greenway biking and walking trail will provide additional recreational opportunities for area residents.

Once the remediation and development work is completed, the Waterbury Industrial Commons will serve as a model for the rest of our state – and elsewhere in New England – of what can be accomplished when state and local government and the private sector work together in public-private partnerships.

The bill also would authorize a grant to Waterbury for badly-needed improvements, renovations, and upgrades to the Silas Bronson Library, including long-overdue upgrades to the library's heating and air conditioning system and repairs to the roof.

The improvements will make the library safer and more comfortable for both the staff and the thousands of patrons who use the facility every year.

On behalf of the Waterbury and Greater Waterbury residents who are served by the Silas Bronson Library, I thank you for raising this bill. I hope that it will receive your favorable vote and continued support as it moves through the legislative process.