



# State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL

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**RANKING MEMBER**  
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## Planning and Development Committee **PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY**

Monday, March 3, 2008

Senator Coleman, Representative Feltman and Planning and Development Committee Membership,

Please find below a copy of the testimony I submitted to the Select Committee on Housing in support of the restoration of funds to the Public Housing Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Low and Moderate Income Tax Abatement Programs. This funding is supported in both Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 5712, which are before your Committee today, and I hope that you will favorably address the reinstatement and continuation of these incredibly crucial supports for the low income housing population in our state.

**Select Committee on Housing**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY ON:**  
***HOUSE BILL 5031, "AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND THE LOW AND MODERATE INCOME TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAMS".***

**Presented by Rep. Leonard Greene, 105<sup>th</sup> District**

Senator Gomes, Representative Green and Select Committee on Housing Members,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today on H. B. 5031, which seeks to restore funding for the Public Housing Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Low and Moderate Income Tax Abatement Programs. The removal of these funds has had a significant impact on my district in the towns of Seymour and Ansonia.

Particularly, within the community of Seymour, I have received correspondence from many residents who rent from the Seymour Housing Authority. On a fixed income, and already struggling to meet the rising cost of living, they have been devastated by the unexpected \$65 increase in their rent, and are beside themselves about how they will be able to afford it. The impact on Seymour was so severe and the outcry so great within the community, that anonymous gift card donations began arriving at the authority. The gift cards were donated by sympathetic neighbors to help public housing tenants who are having problems paying their rent and keeping current on other expenses.

I introduced a bill similar to H. B. 5031 earlier in the session hoping to restore funding for these programs. I recognize that we already have broken the spending cap during the current fiscal year. It is my hope that the Appropriations Committee can find a way to restore funding during the 2007-08 fiscal year without breaking the spending cap again. In addition, I strongly recommend that funding for the program be restored permanently, continuing into next year and beyond provide badly needed help to residents who depend on these programs to keep a roof over their heads.

Again, on behalf of myself and the people of Seymour and Ansonia, 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.