

**Testimony of Tod Bryant, president of the Norwalk Preservation Trust, before the
Planning and Development Committee on SB 452, AN ACT CONCERNING
NOTIFICATION TO MUNICIPALITIES OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF
STRUCTURES ON THE STATE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
STRUCTURES**

The Norwalk Preservation Trust opposes the passage of S.B. 452, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO MUNICIPALITIES OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF STRUCTURES ON THE STATE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES.

This bill is redundant since the Commission on Culture and Tourism already notifies the municipalities of upcoming State Register Nominations and the notification requirements for National Register nominations are even broader. A public hearing on both types of nomination is already held as part of the monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Council of the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

If these hearings were to be held in the municipalities themselves, they would place an unnecessary burden on the staff and volunteer members of the Council. The added travel and administrative time could also have the effect of enormously slowing and complicating the processing of these nominations.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's list of buildings, structures and sites that are significant to the country's history. The State Register serves the same purpose for Connecticut.

Listing in these registers carries no restrictions and is completely honorific. The lists themselves serve as an important planning tool for governments at all levels. A listing in the State Register makes homeowners in Low and Moderate Income Census tracts eligible for State Historic Homeowner Rehabilitation Tax Credits; commercial property owners can be eligible for two state historic rehabilitation tax credits. A listing in the National Register makes commercial property owners eligible for Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Please do not add a new level of complication to a system that is now working. In short, please don't fix it if it ain't broke.