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Testimony
of
John Herzan
Preservation Services Officer, The New Haven Preservation Trust
Public Hearing, March 3, 2008
Planning and Development Committee

Senator Coleman, Representative Feltman, and members of the Planning and Development Committee, my name is John Herzan and I am providing testimony in opposition to Raised Bill No. 452, An Act Concerning Notification to Municipalities of Proposed Designation of Structures on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Between 1978 and 2003, I served as State and National Register Coordinator for the Connecticut Historical Commission (aka the State Historic Preservation Office). During that period, my duties included the preparation of written notices to municipalities and private citizens when local properties were under consideration for nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Planning and Development Committee that the notification-to-municipalities requirement called for in Raised Bill No. 452 is already being implemented by the State Historic Preservation Officer. In fact, notification to local public officials and private property owners is required by National Park Service regulations (36CFR Part 60) before the listing of an historic place may occur. Furthermore, opportunities for commenting on such actions are provided at public hearings conducted by the State Historic Preservation Council and the State Historic Preservation Board before they vote to designate a structure as an historic place.

In conclusion, existing State procedures and Federal regulations already mandate notification to municipalities of pending historic designations before they are formally made, and public hearings on such actions are currently required in the designation process. Therefore, the intended purpose of Raised Bill No. 452 has been satisfied and the bill should be defeated because its purpose is redundant.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.