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Testimony of Representative Al Adinolfi
On House Bill 5882
Before the Commerce Committee
March 11, 2008

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, I am honored to testify before you on House Bill 5882.

Wallingford is definitely on course to become one of the best "Tourist Attractions" in our state: they are constantly striving to restore and preserve the many historical sites.

This bill provides \$150,000 in funding to the 1672 Nehemiah Royce House, the oldest surviving structure in town. This building was salvaged and restored in the 1930's by the Nehemiah Royce family. The funding of this restoration should be a priority; this building is on its last leg. If we do not fund the start of restoration now we are very apt to lose the structure. This house was used by General George Washington to address Connecticut's colonists as he made his way from the Second Continental Congress to take charge of the Continental Army in Massachusetts.

In Addition, HB 5882 provides \$400,000 in funding for the Wallingford Welcome Center to be located on the grounds of the recently refurbished Franklin Johnson Mansion and American Silver Museum. The welcome center will serve as the initial point that visitors coming to town will visit.

Some of the speakers that will follow are members of the Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust and are very qualified to answer specific questions.

My hopes are that the Commerce Committee will act favorably on these recommendations.

Thank you

Al Adinolfi