

Raised Bill No. 5640

An Act Concerning Zoning Enforcement

MARCH 3, 2008 TESTIMONY

SUBMITTED BY:

BRUCE E. DRISKA, CZEO

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee.

My name is Bruce Driska. I am in favor of Raised Bill No. 5640 and speak on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials as its Legislative Liaison, and, as immediate Past President (two terms). I am a City of Middletown Zoning Enforcement Officer and have been a Certified Zoning Enforcement Official since 1995.

Section 1 of Raised Bill No. 5640 proposes to eliminate the treble damages clause from Section 8-12a (c) of the general statutes. As you are aware, there is no other municipal enforcement statute that includes treble damages language. The treble damages clause is unnecessary. It is known to be a hindrance to municipalities considering the adoption of a municipal citation ordinance.

We know that zoning regulations make better communities. But what happens to a community when regulations aren't followed and the municipality lacks the necessary enforcement tools to achieve compliance? With your help, the relationship between zoning regulations and zoning compliance can be improved.

By supporting Raised Bill No. 5640, you can have a positive effect on zoning enforcement by providing new legislative authority for municipalities striving to promote and protect public health, safety, property values and the general welfare for the citizens of Connecticut.

Please vote in favor of Raised Bill No. 5640.