



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Testimony of Secretary Robert L. Genuario in favor of
SB 39 – An Act Concerning Responsible Growth

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Feltman, Senator Fasano, Representative Bacchiochi and members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am Robert L. Genuario, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and I am here today to testify in favor of SB 39, Act An Concerning Responsible Growth.

Senate Bill 39 is a continuation of Governor Rell's Responsible Growth initiative first unveiled in Executive Order #15 in October of 2006 and seeks to build on both that document as well as Responsible Growth legislation that was adopted during last year's legislative session.

Section 1 formally define Responsible Growth and define its underlying principles.

Section 2 creates a Responsible Growth Cabinet which will serve as a standing advisory group to the Governor and recommend policies and initiatives that advance Responsible Growth and its principles.

Section 3 charges the Responsible Growth Cabinet to provide specific advice on Projects of Regional Significance and provide an opportunity to developers of such projects to make a presentation to the Responsible Growth Cabinet before permitting begins and to give all of the member agencies an opportunity to work together to help move such projects along in a more expeditious fashion.

Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this bill seek to require that local planning and zoning, subdivision and inland wetlands regulations be consistent with local Plans of Conservation and Development. They also provide a mechanism through which the town can adopt regulations that are not consistent with local plans, provided these regulations are approved by the legislative body of the community.

Section 7 authorizes municipalities and developers to enter into Community Benefit Agreements to bring fairness to the process of helping communities deal with the impacts of development so that the total impact of local development is not placed solely on the shoulders of the last developer to walk through the door.

Section 8 creates the “Walk the walk” initiative which requires developers who receive state funding to make sure that at least 2% of the total project’s cost will be spent on pedestrian and other non-motorized transportation improvements. There is a provision for OPM to waive this requirement if it is likely to not be appropriate with the nature, scope or location of the project.

Section 9 and 10 require that grants made under the Responsible Growth Incentive Fund in both FY 2008 and FY 2009 shall meet Responsible Growth Principles.

In short, this package seeks to continue to advance Governor Rell’s Responsible Growth initiative and we look forward to working with the committee to continue this forward progress. Towards that end we look forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks and months to address specific concerns and continue the progress made in continuing to keep Connecticut economically competitive while preserving its unique character and charm.