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Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, Connecticut

Feb. 24, 2009

Subject: Raised Bill No. 951 "AN ACT CONCERNING
NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION"

Members of the General Assembly,

It is with great appreciation that I voice my support for the above listed Bill. As a nation, and here in Connecticut, we are in the midst of remarkable and unprecedented economic conditions; the proposed measures are a proactive and necessary response to the conditions that have evolved, and a required step toward recovery.

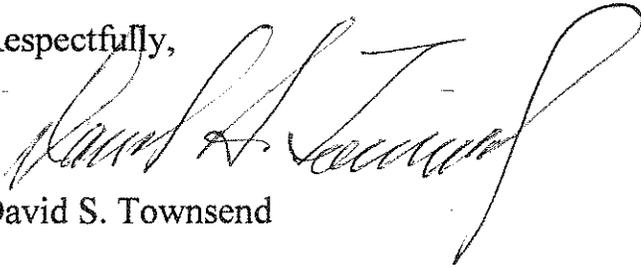
As a licensed Connecticut Home Inspector, I have had many occasions to observe the adverse impact that neglected foreclosed properties have had upon surrounding neighborhoods, and the structures themselves. The utter failure on the part of the foreclosing institutions to perform any significant maintenance has created a shameful and destructive scenario that frequently can only be defined as irresponsible blight. Health concerns, reduced property values, increased criminal activity, and a continuation of the slide in the housing market are but a few of the effects neglected properties have upon our communities. Often the neglect of these properties renders a situation where a residence that is habitable and only in need of limited maintenance, rapidly becomes uninhabitable and in need of considerable investment to again become occupied. It is, in the simplest of definitions, wrong and disrespectful to fail to maintain a foreclosed property, the proposed Bill is a significant step toward repair of this impropriety.

Last year in Connecticut we experienced thousands of foreclosures, many of which remain vacant and neglected. I urge you

to consider measures within this Bill to include these properties for registration within the municipality where they lie, and to be maintained accordingly. As well, properties that are subject to foreclosure at the present should be included so as to avoid an escalation of proceedings to predate the passage of the Bill. The import of the proposed Bill to our State is clearly dramatic, and I strongly support the most expeditious route toward passage.

Thank you for your aggressive and responsible actions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

David S. Townsend