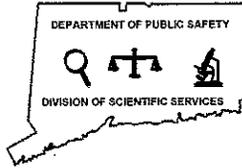




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

March 17, 2009

Sen. John Fonfara, Co-Chairman
Rep. Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chairman
Energy and Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6377 AN ACT CONCERNING GREEN BUILDING REGULATIONS

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

The Department of Public Safety thanks Governor Rell for bringing forth this proposed bill.

The proposed bill recognizes the importance of the sustainable design and energy conservation goals of Section 16a-38k of the General Statutes and makes necessary changes to make those goals workable and achievable. The removal of the five million construction dollar cost stipulation threshold is necessary due to the wide variety of financial demographics prevalent in the state. Also problematic is that the existing statute does not define the costs included in the five million dollars for new construction. It is unclear if the cost of the land, site work, utility costs, legal fees, design fees, equipment in building, furniture was intended to be included with the construction costs.

Basic building construction costs vary considerably from one portion of the state that is adjacent to other neighboring states such as New York. Construction costs also vary considerably from doing construction work in a city versus doing construction work in a small town. Removing the financial dollar threshold and replacing it with a square footage threshold, will create uniform implementation equity across the state for all municipalities.

The bill also removes of The Institute for Sustainable Energy from the previous language. The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University consists of a professor and several student interns who are not equipped to handle the volume of requests that will come in from state funded development projects throughout the State. Removal of this language will result in the consistency of one state agency being solely responsible for review and decision making authority on requests submitted.

Finally, the change in the implementation date will provide needed additional time to adopt the new requirements and provide them the opportunity to utilize more current available International Energy Conservation and Sustainable Design Codes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety