

*Connecticut Preservation Action*  
*The Voice of Historic Preservation at the Assembly since 1980*

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Public Hearing Monday, March 16, 2009

Testimony of Anita L. Mielert, President of Connecticut Preservation Action

**In Opposition to Governor's Bill 6375 and specifically  
the elimination of the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee**

Senator Slossberg, Rep. Spallone and members of the GAE committee, I am Anita Mielert, president of CT Preservation Action, CT Advisor to the National Trust of Historic Preservation's Board of Advisors, and a former First Selectman of the Town of Simsbury.

Last summer I was appointed to the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee, representing local preservation organizations through my work with the Simsbury Main Street Partnership. Prior to that, I worked as an individual with the coalition that was formed because of the Community Investment Act, a coalition of historic preservation, affordable housing, farmland preservation, and open space protection.

The Community Investment Act has far exceeded the hopes for this measure when it was enacted in 2005. The coalition that has resulted from these four interest areas has been **silo-busting**. We are meeting regularly, working together, forging partnerships and joint ventures. And the actual investment in our communities has been transformational.

Pursuant to actions taken in last year's legislative session, brownfields remediation was added to the Face legislation as a partner. This legislation last year had **97 co-sponsors**. The CIA coalition has been growing up and moving into a new, more mature force which can carry out Smart Growth initiatives in every corner of the state, leveraging state funds and combining our priorities into a greater vision for development.

We have not yet even met as a committee. We have not cost the state any money.

Nor are we likely to: I have personally served on two other state commissions in the past (the CT Historical Commission and the CT Innovations Review Panel), and neither one cost the state any funds, but rather they called on citizen input before public policy was formed, input which usually has come from on-the-ground experience.

Far from "unnecessary and obsolete," the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee is visionary and holds potential for innovation that the State cannot afford to throw away.