



State of Connecticut
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DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009
Joint Committee on Planning & Development

To The Esteemed Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

I wish to offer testimony on behalf of Proposed Bill 5553, *An Act Concerning Appeals To The Local Board Of Assessment Appeals*.

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission has been in contact with me regarding this legislation. As you know, a board of assessment appeals is permitted by statute not to conduct a hearing for a property assessed at more than \$500,000. In an effort to encourage the business climate of our town, our development commission offers the suggestion that this assessment threshold be increased. The rationale is that in many instances, an entity could be considered a "small" business and yet have well over \$500,000 worth of real property incorporated into its operations. In times such as these, we must consider any possible means of giving our small business owners the opportunity to thrive, and also to guarantee for them the chance to state their case.

I thank the committee for its consideration.

Linda Orange