



1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut
P.O. Box 1988 • Hartford, CT 06144-1988 • 860.523.0003 • www.1000friends-ct.org

PRESERVING, CONSERVING AND GROWING SMART

Testimony to the Planning and Development Committee on

6389 An Act Promoting Regionalization

February 23, 2009

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, members of the Planning and Development Committee, for the record, my name is Heidi Green. I am the president of the statewide smart growth organization, 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut. 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut conducts research, education and advocacy on the interconnected web of policies that sustain robust cities, lively downtowns and walkable neighborhoods, provide transit and affordable housing options, and ensure a healthy natural environment for clean air, water, wildlife habitat, and a viable agricultural sector.

Moving toward smart, sustainable development in Connecticut requires significant changes in four major areas: 1) reducing our reliance on the regressive property tax; 2) increasing regional cooperation for economic development and land use; 3) modernizing our local zoning codes; and 4) investing strategically in the smart growth areas of transit, transit oriented development, brownfield remediation and reuse, affordable housing, and priority property preservation – preservation of lands and water resources, critical wildlife habitats, and the prime soils that support our agricultural economy.

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut supports bill **6389 An Act Promoting Regionalization**. We believe these two grants to municipalities – one to act regionally to purchase capital equipment, and the second to make essential capital improvements and consolidate service delivery – are sound, forward-thinking investments for the long-term benefit of our communities and our citizens.

If our cities and towns increase inter-municipal cooperation, they can reduce the cost to provide certain local services. This will bring down the expenses of property tax payers. We also believe cities and towns working together can better coordinate economic development priorities and programs and thus, begin to manage land use and natural resources on a more sustainable scale.

Please think of 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut as a resource for you in the weeks ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

The Board and Staff of 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut


Heidi Green, President