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Testimony of John DeStefano J., Mayor
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**To Senator Eric D. Coleman and Representative Brendan Sharkey and Members of
Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development Committee
March 6, 2009**

Raised Bill No. 1033: An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Green Buildings

As Mayor of the City of New Haven, I strongly support **Raised Bill 1033 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR GREEN BUILDINGS**. The bill establishes a tax credit for green building projects meeting or exceeding LEED Gold certification in the State of Connecticut.

The City of New Haven is fortunate to be a leader in green building both in the public and private sectors. The Barnard Environmental Magnet School was the state's first LEED Gold public elementary school, and Kroon Hall at the Yale University School of Forestry is seeking a LEED Platinum rating. However, most of the green building activity has come from municipal government and non-profit institutions. Extending the green building revolution to the commercial sector is vital to the success of New Haven's ambitious economic development and job growth plans. The establishment of green building tax credits gives New Haven and other municipalities a strong tool to attract responsible investment that cares about its impact on the community and the environment.

A wonderful example of the type of project that this legislation will foster is the 360 State Street mixed-use residential tower in downtown New Haven, under development by Becker and Becker. The project is seeking LEED Gold status and will provide a template for future green, transit-oriented developments both in New Haven and around the state. 360 State is the first new residential construction downtown in 20 years. The tax credits in this legislation will show Connecticut's commitment to 360 State and similar projects planned in New Haven and other Connecticut cities: embracing the sustainable vision offered by green developers. With these tax credits, we are encouraging smart economic development as outlined in the Governor's Executive Order No. 15 that positions Connecticut's cities and towns to succeed in a changing global economy. Thank you.