



Bethany • Branford • Cheshire • East Haven • Gullford • Hamden • Madison • Milford • New Haven • North Branford • North Haven • Orange • Wallingford • West Haven • Woodbridge

**Testimony to the Continuing Committee on Planning and Development
in support of**

S. B. 1033: An Act to Establish a Tax Credit for Green Buildings

March 6, 2009

Chairman Coleman and Chairman Sharkey, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 1033, which would establish a Tax Credit for Transit-Oriented Real Estate Development projects that meet or exceed LEED Green Building Rating System gold certification. We believe this measure would encourage development in our cities, which creates construction jobs and pays taxes to the host municipalities.

The proposed bill establishing tax credits for "green" buildings is consistent with the Chamber's mission to provide leadership in marshalling the physical, economic, and human resources of the south central Connecticut region for its development as a favorable place to operate business, a desirable place to work and an attractive place to live. These tax credits can help the environment and at the same time strengthen investment in our local and regional economy.

Furthermore, the credits can generate and promote smart growth within cities, encouraging transit-oriented, walkable, bicycle friendly neighborhoods. Projects including "green" buildings often include mixed-use development with a variety of housing choices. Fostering growth in the property tax grand list, strengthening mass transit, and retaining area businesses are all key factors in the growth of the Greater New Haven region.

We respectfully ask the Committee to note that S.B. 1033 is in alignment with President Obama's Economic Stimulus package, which provides \$16.8B for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Sources. Funds will be awarded by this Office to state & local government to support development of new energy efficient strategies such as 360 State Street, the largest mix-use development in Connecticut.

Finally, Governor Rell's **Executive Order No. 15** emphasizes responsible land use to avoid fragmenting the landscape, consuming precious natural resources, wasting energy, polluting the air and water, and increasing Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can accelerate the pace of climate change. Measures like the one before you can encourage responsible development and help keep us economically competitive.