

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

Environment Committee  
Public Hearing Monday, March 16, 2009

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

**In Support of Raised Bill 6660  
and specifically concerning the Face of Connecticut Steering Committee**

Senator Meyer, Rep. Roy, and members of the Environment 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 **silobusting**. 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.

This bill represents a "baby step" in the right direction. We know that the economy requires us to move forward much more slowly, yet even baby steps give us more time for deliberation and creativity. Requiring a report on the goals and obstacles of the program and to develop criteria for mixed-use preservation will certainly strengthen the overall performance even more.

We are hearing daily about Stimulus, usually involving huge dollar amounts and machinery. But we should realize that **Stimulus can come in many sizes and shapes. This one is shaped and leveraged by the grassroots and results in stronger communities as well as stronger economies. Please allow the Face of Connecticut to grow into the kind of vision we all want for our state.**