



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

APRIL CAPONE ALMON

Mayor

To: The Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

From: April Capone Almon, Mayor – Town of East Haven

Date: February 23, 2009

RE: Proposed Senate Bill 833

Good Afternoon Senator Daily, Representative Staples and all the members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is April Capone Almon, Mayor of the Town of East Haven and I am here today to ask you to delete Section 365 of proposed Senate Bill 833.

As you know, Section 365 of proposed Senate Bill 833 calls for the repeal of the \$1,000,000 Grant-in-aid to the Town of East Haven for Phase III downtown development. If this were to happen, the Town, and the community as a whole, would greatly suffer. Allow me to explain.

In developing its downtown revitalization plan, the Town incorporated several critical objectives, which included: 1) removing blight conditions along Main Street, 2) improving the quality of life for existing retailers and residents, and 3) expanding its economic and development efforts by creating opportunities to attract new businesses.

To that end, the Town spent nearly \$350,000 of its own money for an engineering firm to design a downtown revitalization plan that includes three (3) phases. The first two (2) have been completed; so it goes without saying those living and working in the remaining Phase III area will be negatively affected in terms of keeping with the Town's critical objectives. But more so than meeting the Town's critical objectives is its concern for public safety. Phase III includes straightening out a dangerous "S" curve on Main Street that is literally an accident waiting to happen, as well as continuing with the installation of sidewalks and light fixtures for safe pedestrian traffic. Once again, the Town has allocated \$500,000 of its own money to secure the services of another engineering firm to redesign this portion of the road, which also includes the adjacent 4-way intersection; but it will not be enough to do all the work associated with the dangerous "S" curve and finish installing the remaining sidewalks and light fixtures. Simply put, without the \$1,000,000 Grant-in-aid, the Town does not have the means by which it can complete the third and final phase of its downtown revitalization plan.

It is for these reasons why I am asking you on behalf of the residents and business community of East Haven to delete Section 365 of proposed Senate Bill 833. In closing, I want to thank you in advance for your careful consideration, and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.