



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
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Testimony

In Support of H.B. No. 5240
An Act Concerning The Threshold For Compliance with Affordable Housing

Housing Committee
February 17, 2009

Dear Senators Gomes, Doyle and McKinney and Representatives Green, Butler and Miller and Members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Fred Camillo, State Representative for the 151st District.

I come before you to ask your support for proposed H.B. No. 5240. This bill would allow municipalities "to require accessory apartments to be considered as affordable housing, thereby reducing the threshold of applicability of affordable housing to towns with less than ten per cent of housing that is affordable." and "more accurately count the number of affordable housing units available in towns."

If this bill was to become law, it would accomplish several things:

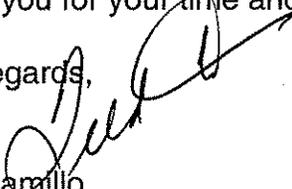
- 1) Provide young professionals the opportunity to reside in the towns and cities they work in at affordable rents;
- 2) Provide seniors much needed income at a time when many are struggling to stay in the state;
- 3) Increase the number of affordable housing units without increasing the total number of units counted. More specifically, each time a new unit of affordable housing is built, the total number of housing units increases. Thus, no town can reasonably expect to attain the 10% goal as they are always "chasing" the 10% number;

4) Be environmentally sound as no new construction would be built. Thus, no new impervious surfaces will appear. Moreover, many towns that have been experiencing flooding due to over-development will welcome this legislation. One of the main causes of flooding is the proliferation of development; and

5) Be aesthetically neutral. The streetscapes of towns will not suffer due to more affordable housing units if there is no new construction. Thus, the current green spaces will be left intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this proposed bill.

Best regards,



Fred Camillo
State Representative
151st District