



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE TERRIE WOOD
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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:

I want to thank you for having a public hearing on HB-5240, *An Act Concerning the Threshold for Compliance with Affordable Housing*.

I am writing to you today in support of HB-5240. This is a bill I am sponsoring with State Representative Fred Camillo of the 151st district. This bill would allow for "accessory apartments" to be counted toward the total needed to ultimately qualify for 8-30g. I am strongly in support of this bill for three reasons.

One, I represent a community that is 98% developed and finding the land for the legislated affordable housing is very challenging. We are also a community that has significant issues with flooding due to the largest amount of impervious surface in Fairfield County. To build enough affordable housing would increase the impervious surface and contribute to even more issues with flooding. By qualifying the already existing accessory apartments as potential affordable housing units, we would not have to increase the impervious surface by building new properties.

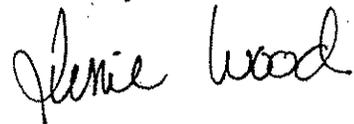
Two, by allowing accessory apartments to qualify as affordable housing, we would be spreading the housing stock through out the town. So no one neighborhood would be drastically changed. The landscape of the town remains relatively unchanged. This type housing has also more popular with teachers than large apartment type housing.

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Three, this bill would allow senior citizens to stay in their homes with the additional rental income. This would lessen the local property tax burden on our senior population.

I ask for this committee's support of HB-5240.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terrie Wood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Terrie Wood
State Representative