

February 11, 2009

To: Distinguished Chairs Senator Gomes and Representative Green, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee

Re: Proposed Bill #5597 AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FEE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

From: Westport, CT Planning and Zoning Commission, Ron Corwin, Chair/Ellie Lowenstein, Vice Chair

The Westport Planning and Zoning Commission supports a fee for development of 8-30(g) applications.

Planning and/or zoning commissions while planning for the town or writing zones are in contact with other town bodies for comments on the suggested changes related to that body's purview. The local department of public works will evaluate the changes based on road conditions and sewer capacity, the police will comment on traffic issues and the fire department on access, for example. The Planning and/or zoning commissions take these comments into account and adjust their proposed changes accordingly. In the case of an application under CGS 8-30(g), the site may be in an area that was never planned for the density proposed.

Unless the applicant agrees in writing to make adjustments to infrastructure in the near vicinity of the project, the zoning commission may turn the project down, lose the case and the town would be in the position of making major changes to access the development.

Please support a fee under these circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cc: Honorable Toni Boucher, Senator District #26
Honorable Joe Mioli, Representative District 136
Honorable Kim Fawcett, Representative District 133