

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 868**  
**General Assembly Committee on Housing**  
**February 19, 2009**

My name is Catherine Bachrach and I am the president of the Board of Kent Village Housing for the Elderly, the non-profit owner of Templeton Farm Senior Apartments in the Northwest Connecticut Town of Kent.

I appear before you in support of S.B. 868 - to restore the Tax Abatement and Pilot Grants.

Templeton Farms was granted a 40 year tax abatement in 1976 upon completion of the 24 unit complex, located in the heart of our small town of approximately 3000 people. Kent is a bucolic town with one stop light, one public school and one grocery store. The veneer of affluence created in part by large weekend homes masks the housing and other needs of working class families and elders who each year find it more difficult to find affordable housing.

Templeton Farms has provided a much needed refuge for Kent elders who wish to remain in the town where they worked, volunteered and raised their families. Current residents include a 95 year old man who first came to Kent through the Civilian Conservation Corps to build a road in Macedonia Park and returned from a POW camp in Germany after World War II to work in a local post office. Another resident, a retired social worker, raised three young children locally after losing two husbands to polio. These are people we treasure; we support their determination to continue to live independently in their own apartments.

The tax abatement payments in recent years have ranged from about \$9,000 to about \$6,000. Because of their availability, we are able to continue to provide affordable housing even for those elders who are living solely on Social Security payments. We are able to maintain the buildings to high standards and dedicate board-raised and reserve funds to improvements, such as the gutting of an apartment last year and its conversion to a fully handicapped accessible unit, our first, for a wheelchair-using resident - a long time goal.

I appeal to you to do all within your power to secure passage of S.B. 868.

Thank you.