



testimony regarding

**House Bill 6584
An Act Establishing a
Connecticut Heritage Areas Program**

made before the

Planning and Development Committee

March 6, 2009

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments fully **SUPPORTS** House Bill 6584, An Act Establishing a Connecticut Heritage Areas Program. We urge the Committee to give it **favorable consideration**.

The Quinebaug (which in line 16 of the bill is spelled wrong) and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor fully covers the 12 towns that make up NECCOG. NECCOG was instrumental in the formation of the Corridor – providing its initial staffing. The Corridor has been and continues to be a positive force in the preservation, protection and enhancement of our region and the other towns that constitute the Corridor.

The proposal put forth in Senate Bill 6584 that in the development of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (Section 16a-24 ..) that "***Any revision[to the State Plan of Conservation and Development] made after October 1, 2009, shall take into consideration the protection and preservation of Connecticut Heritage Areas***" is a positive one and should be endorsed. We suggest that this proposal go the additional step of requiring both regional plans and municipal plans of conservation and development where such heritage areas are located also be required to consider the protection and preservation of heritage areas. Such a requirement should not increase the cost of the preparation of such plans.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.