

February 17, 2009

Members of the Connecticut State Legislature Planning & Development Committee

Good Afternoon. I'm Dave Fairman from Waterford speaking from the perspective of a former Waterford Selectman concerned with supporting regional cooperation and also the toll that Sprawl has taken on our quality of life in Connecticut.

For the last decade New London has been gradually coming back due to many bootstrap and state funded initiatives.

But driving into the city in the morning one sees the many homeless people walking from one site to another, even in the worst of weather. We know that some are sleeping and dying in the woods. One I know has a doctorate in mathematics. Others are engineers and veterans.

One can also see far too many empty buildings, where people could be living.

New London's sprawl began after World War II and passed Norwich's sprawl heading in the other direction all the while covering viable farmland and eventually polluting Long Island Sound.

Sixty years of Unintended Consequences leaves our wealth geographically disbursed with a weak viable core. We waste a large part of our income commuting and depend on food imported long distances significantly adding to air, noise and water pollution.

Here in Connecticut we have the motivation and resources to protect our environment, restore our cities and improve our quality of life with a tool that has been effective in other areas in the US and around the world. That's a Land Value Tax option that focuses development on appropriate infrastructure.

With proper planning and the Land Value Tax option, Connecticut, where environmental regulation began, can develop in a manner that efficiently uses resources and improves the quality of life for all.

I urge your support of Land Value Tax Proposed Bills 379 and 392.

Thank You,

Dave Fairman
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