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March 5, 2009

State of Connecticut General Assembly

RE: Bill # S B 1041

New London Landmarks supports Bill # SB 1041

An Act Concerning the Demolition of Buildings:

To regulate the demolition of buildings by (1) requiring the planning commission to make a determination of no feasible or prudent alternative to the demolition, and (2) to require notice in a local newspaper of a proposal to demolish a building.  
Introduced by: Planning and Development Committee

The City of New London has experienced mass demolition of whole neighborhoods in the city without any reference to feasible or prudent alternatives being considered. Great sections of historic neighborhoods as well as commercial districts have been destroyed and replacements are mostly low-income developments – or remain empty lots.

New London Landmarks supports all efforts to strengthen demolition regulations. Viable alternatives to demolition should always be required. Demolition ordinances should also hold prospective development to high standards that reflect the design; size, mass, height and architectural detail of neighboring structures.

Notices in a local newspaper of proposed demolition are already required in New London's Demolition Ordinance; they certainly should be part of state statues.

Please support the passage of Raised Bill No. 1041 to require a more extensive review of all demolition applications.

Thank You,

Sincerely

Sandra Kersten Chalk  
Executive Director



*A non-profit corporation to promote the preservation and development of the entire urban environment of New London, Connecticut, including significant individual structures, streetscapes, neighborhoods and open spaces.*