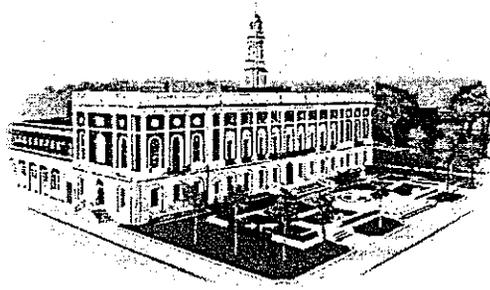


MICHAEL J. JARJURA
MAYOR



JOSEPH A. GEARY
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE CITY OF WATERBURY
CONNECTICUT

To: Labor and Public Employees Committee
From: Mayor Michael J. Jarjura
Date: 2/17/2010
Re: HB 5059 - Municipal Assessor Appointments

Please accept this written testimony as my support of HB 5059. Being the Mayor of a large city with a storied past, I truly understand the need to insulate the position of assessor from political pressures.

When I took office, Waterbury had not satisfied its statutory obligation to perform a revaluation for over twenty years. The City of Waterbury's mill rate was close to 100 mills. Taxpayers with newer automobiles were paying more in taxes than owners of homes in other jurisdictions.

We completed the revaluation for October 1, 2001 and I stood shoulder to shoulder with our assessor in support of it. I saw first-hand the pressures he encountered from the public fulfilling the statutory requirements.

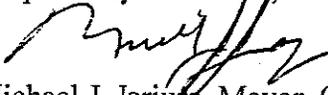
It would be unconscionable for an assessor to have to deal with pressures from within his own administration as well.

The job is difficult enough, no doubt. However, no assessor should fear losing his job because of an order to violate the very statutes that govern the process or a change in administration. HB 5059 is a good government bill that will attract a better pool of

assessment personal and ensure the future integrity of the tax base and tax system that that we all rely on in Connecticut.

Please support HB 5059.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Jarjura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael J. Jarjura, Mayor, City of Waterbury