



Connecticut Chapter
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Testimony of
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Submitted to Housing Committee
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Good-afternoon my name is Neil Griffin and I am the Vice President of Housing & Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and the Executive Director of the Glastonbury Housing Authority. Conn-NAHRO represents over 112 Connecticut housing authorities and other non-profit and community development member agencies. Member agencies have the responsibility of effectively managing or administering housing for 150,000 families/individuals and over 62,000 housing units in Connecticut.

Speaking on behalf of Conn-NAHRO's Executive Board and member agencies I would like to express support for: SB 302

SB 302 An Act Concerning State Funding Of Affordable Housing Located
In A Five-Hundred-Year Flood Plain.

Conn-NAHRO strongly supports the Committee's efforts to preserve Connecticut's low income housing that was developed within the 500 Year Flood Plain. The proposed exemption will allow existing low income and affordable properties not only to access State funds but federal funds administered by the State, thereby allowing the properties to fund the much needed capital improvements or the adaptive reuse of existing structures.

We urge the Committee to explore removing the language found on lines 138 through 143 of the bill or adding the language that would allow for a commissioner *or local municipal authority having jurisdiction to sign off*. This section requires the commissioner to sign off on a series of conditions. In as much that all towns in Connecticut participate in the National Flood Insurance Program(NFIP) and it is a responsibility of the local municipality as part of their participation in the NFIP to issue or deny floodplain development or building permits and to inspect all floodplain development to assure compliance with ordinances and regulations. Local floodplain measures must meet or exceed the regulations set by the NFIP, or state standards if more restrictive.¹

The language included in the raised bill would require the commissioner to duplicate the efforts already undertaken by the local municipal zoning approval process. At a time DEP staff resources are under great duress achieving their numerous responsibilities and when the legislature is seeking *more* ways to reduce government spending and streamline processes, we believe the elimination of lines 138-143 would contribute to this goal with the desired floodplain impact review being performed locally.

¹ State of Connecticut DEP "NFIP Roles and Responsibilities" August 2009