



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HB 5151 AAC GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE
MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION AND THE MOHEGAN TRIBE
March 1, 2010

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, and members of the Committee on Planning and Development. I am Elizabeth Ritter, the State Representative from the 38th District, representing the Towns of Waterford and Montville. I am testifying in support of HB 5151 AAC GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION AND THE MOHEGAN TRIBE.

I would like to thank the committee for once again raising this bill and holding a hearing. I believe you have done this each year at the request of the local delegation because you agree with us that the bill presents an opportunity to more fairly compensate the Towns of Montville, Ledyard, Preston, and North Stonington for property taxes lost when land values were removed from their local grand lists but not made eligible for grants in lieu of taxes. The lands were taken into trust for the Mohegan Tribe and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation over a period of years. They were all made exempt from local property taxes, but not all the lands were subsequently made eligible for the grants.

This bill remedies the situation. It provides equal reimbursement to the towns for all of the lands involved and it provides for regular valuations of the land. It is far fairer than the current situation.

Again, thank you for your attention and, hopefully, your support. Please contact me if you have further questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth B. Ritter".

Representative Elizabeth "Betsy" Ritter
38th District

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