



HB 6287

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

February 25, 2011

Dear Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Commerce Committee,

I am writing in support of Proposed H.B. No. [REDACTED], An Act Concerning Bridgeport's Palace and Majestic Theaters. If passed, this bill would enable The Department of Economic and Community Development to study the potential of refurbishing the Palace and Majestic Theaters in downtown Bridgeport. If a study is commissioned and a renovation was to take place, the positive effects on Bridgeport would be incalculable.

These historically significant theaters were built in the 1920's and are included in the National Register of Historic Places. By letting them sit empty and unused, we are passing up an extraordinary opportunity. If the theaters were renovated and reopened they would serve to become incredible historical landmarks and tourist attractions. The theaters could also bring in important tourism revenue for Bridgeport if they opened as functioning theaters.

The Palace Theater in Waterbury recently underwent a \$30 million restoration and currently serves as a performing arts center for the community. During the Palace's inaugural season, it exceeded its revenue projections by 20%. If we were to renovate the Palace and Majestic Theaters, they could possibly experience similar financial gains. Such a major renovation project would also create jobs for Bridgeport citizens, as well as help to revitalize downtown Bridgeport.

This is our chance to impact Bridgeport's future for the better. The Palace and Majestic Theaters could become the center of Bridgeport's social scene and could create, as a byproduct, vital jobs as well as bring in revenue for the city. I urge the members of this committee to support the passage of Proposed H.B. No. [REDACTED], An Act Concerning Bridgeport's Palace and Majestic Theaters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SERVING BRIDGEPORT