



Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation  
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February 3, 2011

Senator John Fonfara, Co-Chairman  
Representative Vickie Nardello, Co-Chairman  
Energy & Technology Committee

RE: HB No. 6249: An Act Establishing and Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until  
the Adoption of Regulations  
HB No. 6250: An Act Concerning the Siting Council

As the statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (SA 75-93) submits the following testimony.

The improvement of CT's energy supply and the development of sustainable and renewable sources are worthy and essential goals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But in order to generate jobs and tourism, remain competitive and maintain the quality of life in CT, the state and its agencies must also work to preserve Connecticut's character-defining buildings and communities.

In considering new applications, the Siting Council and associated agencies should make a special effort to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potential adverse effect on historic properties, sites and landscapes. Adverse effects may be either or indirect, cumulative or immediate, but would have the net effect of undermining the preservation and continued use of buildings, sites or structures with a high degree of historical or architectural significance.

In regard to historic buildings and sites that are listed on or eligible for listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places, new construction of any type should

- a) maintain the scale and density of surrounding historic resources
- b) not be a dominant or intrusive element in the context of the surrounding landscape
- c) not interfere with significant historic viewsheds
- d) not introduce a level of noise, odors, vibration, dust or traffic that would interfere with the continued enjoyment and use of existing historic resources.

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation encourages the Siting Council and other agencies to work closely with the State Historic Preservation Office and the residents of the

respective communities to preserve the irreplaceable character of historic buildings and places while encouraging appropriate development of alternative energy sources.

The bills under consideration would place a moratorium on new projects until appropriate regulations are developed. The moratorium and related consultation would make the Federal Section 106 review process work more smoothly and effectively in Connecticut. The bills would help to create a clear and more transparent review process that encourages wide participation and results in more successful cooperation.

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation respectfully encourages your support of HB No. 6249 and HB No. 6250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Helen Higgins".

Helen Higgins  
Executive Director