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Testimony of
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Submitted to Appropriations Committee
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SB 1008 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES - STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Neil Griffin and I am the Senior Vice President for Conn-NAHRO, Chair of its Legislative Committee and the Executive Director of the Glastonbury Housing Authority. Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Connecticut Chapter 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 our overwhelming support for SB 1008, in particular Section 9.

The Governor's proposal to provide $50 million in each year of biennium represents the first significant investment in affordable housing available to the state financed housing portfolio since 1989 when Governor Bill O'Neill proposed a capital budget that included $125 million for housing.

Within the State housing portfolio there are 13,298 affordable units of State public housing that requires an estimated $479.5 million in capital improvements that are not being adequately funded. The capital improvements in the portfolio range from emergency repairs to full redevelopment. The alternative expenditure to replace this current affordable housing stock through new development efforts would exceed $3 billion.

In addition to preserving the states already significant investment in affordable housing, this investment would generate jobs, economic activity including state revenue and needed additional affordable housing units. A recent study by DECD for the Connecticut Housing Tax Credit Contribution Program indicated that $40 million in credits generated 6,100 jobs, $58 million nets state revenue and 2,662 housing units while leveraging $573 million in funds.

Conn-NAHRO strongly supports the preservation of the state housing portfolio and its membership urge passage of SB 1008