

Housing Committee

Public Hearing on H.B. 6461 March 1, 2011

Written Testimony of:
Tadeus Buczkowski
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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Housing Committee: My name is Tadeus Buczkowski. I am currently the Chairman of the Enfield Housing Authority where I have served as a commissioner for over 20 years. I oppose House Bill 6461.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working side by side with several tenant commissioners. Each one has been a well-qualified individual appointed by our Town Council. It has been my experience that all have done a remarkable job at representing the interests of all tenants. During my tenure, one tenant commissioner served as Chairman for many years.

The tenant commissioners have always been appointed in the same manner that I have. They expressed their interest and provided their qualifications to the Town Council. The Council was then able to make the decision as to who they believe will be the best to serve the community. It is my opinion that the system works well.

Changing the system to a tenant organization appointment process could be problematic where popularity is placed ahead of qualifications. This raises a concern that local elected officials will lose the authority to make an important appointment and ability to removal if warranted. I am also concerned about the additional unfunded mandate that will be a burden on local housing authorities and the potential for conflicts of interest.

It would seem to me that this legislation, while it appears to be minor, could have serious unintended consequences. I imagine that the Legislature has more pressing issues to contend with this session.

With consideration to the above, I urge the Housing Committee to oppose H.B. 6461.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tadeus Buczkowski