

CAZEO

ENFORCEMENT
KNOWLEDGE
ZONING

February 18, 2011

Planning and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB-862, Public Hearing February 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO). CAZEO, a voluntary professional association, was formed in 1979 to promote comprehensive zoning enforcement policies in the state. Recognizing that zoning officials require special study, knowledge and skills, a formal certification process was established in 1982. Initially, the certification program was administered through the Institute of Public Service at the University of Connecticut and is now administered through Central Connecticut State University. Eligibility for certification as a Zoning Enforcement Official requires the successful completion of 60 rigorous class hours, passing of three exams and completion of a formal case-study that is subject to peer-review through the CAZEO Certification Committee.

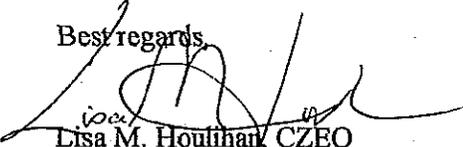
While initial membership was only 20 members, annual membership has grown to represent over 100 Connecticut municipalities and averages 250 members annually. Since formal certification was established at least 400 certifications have been administered. CAZEO certification is recognized to produce qualified, objective and reasonable professionals. And, today, in almost every Connecticut municipality, governmental authorities either require or place high emphasis during the recruiting process that their zoning officers be Certified Zoning Enforcement Officials (CZEO).

With that said and given the administrative remedies already provided for by State Statute to a person aggrieved by a decision made by a zoning official (CGS Section 8-7 Appeals to board. Hearing. Effective date of exceptions or variances; filing requirement), I strongly encourage you to support proposed SB 862, to eliminate the term "treble" from the language of Connecticut General Statute Section 8-12(a).

CAZEO will continue to provide a quality certification process and assist its communities with zoning matters in a professional, courteous and responsible manner.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,


Lisa M. Houlahan, CZEO
CAZEO President