



March 7, 2011

Environment Committee
Senator Edward Meyer, co-chairman
Representative Richard Roy, co-chairman

RE: HB 6262: an Act Concerning the Community Investment Account

Testimony of Helen Higgins, Executive Director, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

My name is Helen Higgins and I am Executive Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust is Connecticut's non-profit statewide preservation organization, established by Special Act of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975 (SA 93-75). It is committed to protecting and nourishing the vitality of significant buildings and landscapes through grants, loans, on-site technical preservation assistance, educational programs and publications.

I am testifying in support of HB 6262, An Act Concerning the Community Investment Account.

The Community Investment Act provides critical funding for historic preservation grants and projects, as well as for affordable housing, open space protection and farmland preservation. This bill clarifies distribution of CIA funds to the agricultural sector, including the dairy industry.

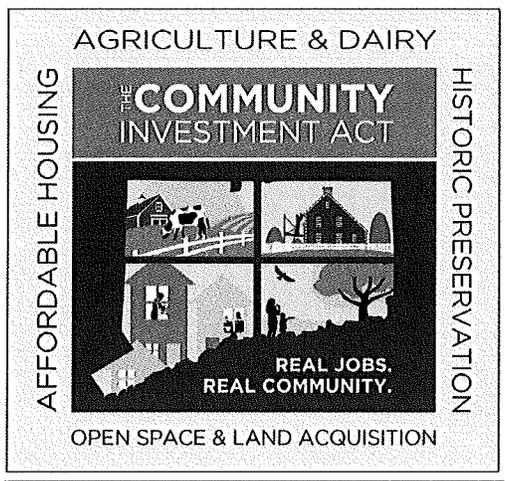
The Connecticut Trust is part of a strong coalition of non-profits that supports the Community Investment Act. We all support redistribution of funds for the agriculture sector.

On behalf of the entire preservation community, I want to thank the Environment Committee for all it has done through the years to support and protect the integrity of the Community Investment Act.

I would like to draw your attention to the attached one-page information sheet on the impact of CIA funds across the state. Of particular note is that projects funded by CIA funds generate real jobs – over 2000 to date in the affordable housing and historic preservation sector alone. Added to that is the fact that this revised bill will support dairy jobs and we see that CIA is a Job Creator!

Thank you again for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Higgins".



IT'S A SIMPLE EQUATION...



You know that CIA funds are used for land preservation, historic preservation, and affordable housing...

...but you may NOT know that:

- ❑ 2,000 jobs were created in the affordable housing and historic preservation sectors due to CIA projects, including jobs for construction workers, architects, engineers, historic consultants, plumbers, electricians, masons, and jobs in the tourism industry
- ❑ The \$873 million outdoor recreation industry and the \$3.5 billion dollar agricultural industry, which together generate 28,000 jobs, is strengthened by CIA investments in local farm businesses and land protection
- ❑ 157 dairy farm businesses were saved with CIA support payments

The Community Investment Act has exceeded all expectations by stimulating a distinct economic sector - the Community Investment Sector. **200% in matching funds from private, federal, and local sources have been raised to match the state's CIA dollars.**

A portion of every CIA dollar collected has stayed in the local community for capital investment. The rest has provided critical funding for **CIA projects in nearly every town and city in the state.**

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT • PA 05-228 • PA 09-3

AGRICULTURE VIABILITY & DAIRY FARMING • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • OPEN SPACE • AFFORDABLE HOUSING
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS • TOWN CLERK RECORDS MANAGEMENT

www.communityinvestmentact.org