



**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

3 Regency Drive, Suite 204, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Tel: 860-216-5858 Fax: 860-206-8954 Web: [www.hbact.org](http://www.hbact.org)

*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

February 14, 2011

To: Senator Steve Cassano, Co-Chairman  
Representative Linda M. Gentile, Co-Chairman  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Bill Ethier, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **House Bill 5049, AAC the Removal or Destruction of Trees**

The HBA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with 1,100 member firms statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, home improvement contractors, trade contractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry. Our members build 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year.

**We are opposed to HB 5049 because existing municipal authority relative to tree preservation already goes too far and adding this new authority will cause confusion and unnecessary further regulation.**

Unfortunately, municipalities already enjoy too much power to control the trimming and cutting of trees. Existing authority should be restricted to regulating the trimming or cutting of trees that interfere with public safety, such as overhanging a street, sidewalk or utility line. However, some municipalities through zoning regulations or municipal tree ordinances dictate, particularly for new developments, which trees can be cut or which must be saved. This imposition of other people's aesthetic views through restrictions on private property owners has nothing to do with public health or safety. Greater impositions relative to tree "removal and destruction" are not warranted.

**Please stop the march of regulatory authority.** Given that municipalities already exercise authority to regulate the cutting of trees, adding this new authority to our statutes will cause confusion and a greater level of regulation that both our industry and all property owners do not need. Connecticut needs to go in the opposite direction to invigorate private property interests and capital investment to grow our economy and jobs.

We respectfully request that you to not pursue this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

*"Leading Our Members to Professional Excellence."*

Serving the Residential Development & Construction Industry Through Advocacy, Education & Networking

