



March 1, 2012

Planning and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB-263, An Act Concerning Liability of Zoning Enforcement Officers
Public Hearing - March 2, 2012

Dear Committee Members:

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 Officer 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 CAZEO's Certification Committee. Furthermore, CAZEO conducts frequent monthly forums to exchange pertinent information concerning zoning and zoning enforcement to assist in solving municipal zoning matters and to promote ethical performance standards.

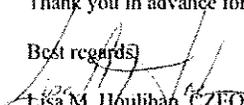
Annual membership represents over 100 Connecticut municipalities and averages 250 individual members. Since formal certification was established, at least 400 certifications have been administered. CAZEO certification is recognized to produce qualified, objective, and principled professionals. And, today, in almost every Connecticut municipality authorities require their zoning officials to be CAZEO certified.

With that said and given the administrative remedies already provided for by the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) to a person aggrieved by a decision made by a zoning official (CGS §8-7 Appeals to board, Hearing, Effective date of exceptions or variances; filing requirement), I strongly urge you to support proposed SB-263, to eliminate the term "treble" from the language of CGS §Section 8-12(a).

CAZEO is committed to providing a quality certification process to assist Connecticut communities with zoning matters in a professional, ethical, and responsible manner.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,


Lisa M. Houlihan, CAZEO
CAZEO President