



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

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*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

March 7, 2013

To: Senator Gary LeBeau, Co-Chairman  
Representative Chris Perone, Co-Chairman  
Members of the Commerce Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **SB 1006, AAC Permitting Accountability**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about nine hundred (900) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. While our membership has declined over the course of our seven-year Great Recession from its high of 1,500 members, we build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

**We strongly support SB 1006 as a simple and common sense measure to help the regulated community when it questions the statutory or regulatory authority of requirements imposed upon them.** We thank the leadership of this committee for raising this bill and holding this public hearing.

**The language of the bill is perfect and we recommend no changes.** This proposal also enjoys the initial support of other leaders in the legislature. The concept has been heard at a public hearing in GAE (HB 5896) and after the hearing the committee voted to draft it on March 4. The Senate Co-Chair of the Planning & Development Committee, Sen. Steve Cassano, has suggested that this responsible government bill should apply also to municipal governments, although SB 1006 deals with only state agencies.

**It is self-explanatory and is one of those "good government" requirements that should have been in place long ago.** The bill merely requires state agencies to inform the regulated community, upon request by any business - or by a land owner who proposes to use their land - who is impacted by a regulatory requirement, of the specific statutory and regulatory authority by which the state agency acts. This will help reign in actions taken by regulators outside of the law, i.e., without statutory or regulatory authority. It is a simple thing to do and should be no burden on agency staff - all regulators should know the specific authority by which they act. Informing those they regulate of the source of their authority is something that should be welcomed by all good regulators.

**Please support SB 1006. We urge a unanimous joint favorable report.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.