

February 14, 2013

MEMO TO: State of Connecticut Education Committee

FROM: New London Landmarks
Sandra Kersten Chalk, Executive Director

RE: Community Investment Act

New London Landmarks is among the many organizations in Connecticut that has benefited from CIA funding. Our Basic Organizational Support grant is essential to our ability to work on many levels to support New London's historic and cultural resources. From saving an 1828 Greek Revival home on Ocean Avenue to our work in favor of retaining the historic Riverside Park for the citizens of the city, New London Landmarks has worked to protect our historic assets and provide a variety of educational programs to the community since 1976.

The City of New London as a whole is benefitting from Vibrant Community Funding that has supported important planning and development strategies for historic buildings and neighborhoods.

CIA funding, coming from a real estate transfer fee, is all directed toward the state's structures and land use programs. Allowing CIA funds to be used for non-land-use initiatives sets the wrong precedent. It sends the wrong message for those of us who advocate for nationally-recognized programs like CIA. These funds, set aside for specific purposes, should not be used for other, unrelated initiatives. Taking funding streams that were established for specific needs and using them for other purposes creates a chaotic system of funding for all projects.

Please preserve the Community Investment Act for the purpose for which it is intended.

Thank You.