

Connecticut Preservation Action

Testimony for the Education Committee public hearing
on February 15, 2013

Rep. Fleischmann, Senator Stillman, and members of the Committee:

In Opposition to Bill 6357, the Gov. Budget, Sec. 22 re. the Community Investment Act and the insertion of a measure to pay for the healthy foods initiative in school lunches.

I am here today officially representing Connecticut Preservation Action, a non-profit which advocates for historic preservation in the state legislature and in Congress. We represent individuals and other organizations, such as the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, CT Main Street Center, Hartford Preservation Alliance, New Haven Preservation Trust, and New Canaan Preservation Alliance.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) as originally written is an elegant measure because it levies a land use-based fee which in turn funds statewide programs which are land use-based. There is a symmetry and logic to its source of funding and their ultimate use. Other speakers here today will tell you about the huge success stories accomplished all across the state, saving historic buildings, farms, open space, providing essential housing. Don't cripple these efforts.

I applaud the healthy foods initiative; our children deserve no less. But feeding our schoolchildren is certainly not a land use-based program. In writing this Section 22 into law, you are making permanent a measure which will make this just another tax, seriously diluting its intent.

This progressive measure should not be treated like a piggy bank, even in a really tough budget year. Where is the public policy logic?

