



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER**

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony By:

Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th District  
Cheshire - Wallingford

On

HB 5048: An Act Concerning the  
Sale of Copper to Scrap Metal Processors

February 7, 2013

Chairman Rep. Baram, Chairman Sen. Doyle, honorable members of the General Law Committee, I speak to you today in strong support of Deputy Speaker Hewett's Bill 5048, "An Act Concerning the Sale of Copper to Scrap Metal Processors."

As you all know the removal of copper from homes and buildings in our state is running rampant. The large processing companies require the posting of the license of the person bringing in the copper as well as identification of the motor vehicles. The small processors is where the trouble arises. No identification takes place at all. As a result, thievery of copper exists without any ramification.

As recently as Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Channel 4 News reported that in the city of Bristol the stealing of copper from homes that have been abandoned or are in foreclosure has become epidemic. It was also reported that copper piping had been stolen in several homes which was for the oil leading to the furnace! Of course, you know what happened – oil spilled in the basement and hazmat had to be brought in to do the clean-up. Result – the costs become enormous.

Please support and pass this bill! The situation in Bristol is only the tip of the iceberg. This bill is a way to make sure that this iceberg does not surface!

Thank you.