

**Testimony of Lori Longhi in Support of HB6253
Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing
March 1, 2013**

Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Lori Longhi, and I write in support of HB 6253 "An Act Authorizing Limited Liability Companies to Vote in Elections in the Thompsonville Fire District. I greatly wanted to testify in person today, but I am currently out of the state. However, I submit this testimony because this is an important issue for the Enfield community.

I am a third-generation owner of two multifamily homes in the Thompsonville Fire District in Enfield Connecticut. I purchased these homes in a LLC type of ownership from my family many years ago. Two years ago the Thompsonville Fire District voted down a referendum to build a new fire station. I attempted to vote in this referendum but was disallowed due to owning my property as an LLC. I would have been able to vote if I owned my property in a partnership or as a conventional single owner. Therefore, I have no voting rights or say regarding any fire district business. Conversely, my father owns a property in the Thompsonville Fire District in a partnership and has voting rights. Yet I own two properties in a LLC and have no voting rights

LLCs are now a very conventional way to own property, and I do not feel that I should be disallowed from voting due to owning my property in this manner. I was not notified about my lack of voting rights prior to purchasing my properties, and I have not received an adequate explanation regarding why I should not have voting rights due to owning property as an LLC.

All that I am asking for is the ability to have the same voting rights as individuals who own property as a partnership, which is a similar type of co—ownership as an LLC. My tenants in Thompsonville pay a minimal amount of fire taxes on their cars, and they all get to vote in fire district elections. Yet I cannot vote as the actual property owner. The problem is very simple, and it is a classic example of taxation without representation. I pay fire taxes at the same high mill rate as everyone else in Thompsonville, but I do not have voting rights. This is shameful, and it should not be allowed in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony.

Lori Longhi, Manager
Lilys LLC