

# Connecticut Preservation Action

Written Testimony of Anita Mielert, President of Connecticut Preservation Action  
Planning & Development Committee  
Monday, March 11, 2013

Senator Cassano, Representative Rojas, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman and the distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee my name is Anita Mielert, and I am a former First Selectman in Simsbury and President of Connecticut Preservation Action (CPA).

CPA is non-profit organization, which advocates for historic preservation at the state and federal levels of government. We represent individuals and organizations, such as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Connecticut Main Street Center, Hartford Preservation Alliance and New Haven Preservation Trust.

CPA supports two proposals before you today, **Senate Bill 960** An Act Authorizing the Establishment of Historic Preservation Commissions and **Senate Bill 1049**, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Regulate Blighted Commercial Property.

Regarding SB 960, CPA supports the proposal, which would permit municipalities to establish their own historic preservation commissions. As a former historic district commission chair, I understand there are many preservation activities available to those commissions who have a local historic district. Local HDCs can accomplish a whole laundry list of proactive measures advantageous to their towns.

However, a town that lacks a local historic district has *no organized mechanism* by which to identify and preserve the heritage of their community. Even though many of the measures advocated in this legislation may now be available, to expect a town council—or town attorney—to cobble them together in a coherent fashion is too much to expect. This legislation will clarify and organize the statutes, giving towns the ability to identify, preserve and enhance unique and historic properties.

SB 960 is simply enabling. Under this legislation each municipality would be permitted, within the framework of this proposal, to determine the measures that would be most advantageous to its own Plan of Conservation and Development. It is an additional tool, one which does not require a local historic district to exist as a basis, and which in turn will allow applications for grants, tax credits and other financial incentives available only to historic resources.

SB 960 would create an organized mechanism for historic preservation, a dedicated group of people concentrating on bringing more financial and legal resources to bear in saving our heritage.

Governor's Bill No. 847  
Committee on Planning And Development

Introduced by:  
Senator Williams, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Looney, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Sharkey, 88<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Aresimowicz, 30<sup>th</sup> District

### An Act Concerning the Commission for Technology Advancement

This represents the Ct GMIS association testimony in support of Senate Bill 847 we support the narrow and wide targets for this proposed Commission.

#### **A Narrow Target Example**

The CT GMIS association of municipal information technology managers sees this proposed Commission providing a mechanism, possibly in the form of subcommittee reviews, to assure municipal access to deploy municipal technology applications enabled by the highest speed, fiber optic cable communications available in the form represented by the Nutmeg Network ARRA project.

Connecticut commercial Internet Service Providers consistently, or at least currently, lag behind data communications speeds available *within* our State's buildings local area network (LAN) architectures.

The 10 billion bits per second (Gbps) connection request submitted to the State's Nutmeg Network Municipal Access Application process is an example of this. A growing number of municipalities and school districts are deploying fiber optic networks connecting their buildings and Local Area Networks (LANs) at 10Gbps. The State Administration informally and Municipal Governments formally recognize that this is a current state-of-the-art electronic communications technology capacity.

This capacity addresses the Tsunami of Voice, Video and Data coming our way from smart phones, digital media sources and interactive electronic education and government. The Municipal Technology Managers that Ct GMIS represents are planning and many are deploying solutions to channel this tsunami within our municipal and education communications architectures over 10Gbps Ethernet LANs. This Commission can serve as the authorizing source that lets our communities push the use of the Nutmeg Network's ARRA fiber optic cabling into the capacity ranges that truly represent "Technology Advancement" ACROSS our municipal and educational architectures, not just within them. It is difficult to being nearly impossible to plan interconnect projects at this Tsunami-handling speed without the State (the owner of the ARRA funded Nutmeg Network) having a way to authorize it – this Commission may do that.