

The logo for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) features the letters "CBIA" in a large, bold, serif font.

CONNECTICUT  
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY  
ASSOCIATION



**TESTIMONY OF ERIC J. BROWN  
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CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

**before the  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**March 11, 2013**

Good evening. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as director of energy and environmental policy with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association ("CBIA"). On behalf of our 10,000 large and small member companies throughout Connecticut, we appreciate this opportunity to share our perspective regarding two bills on today's public hearing agenda.

**S.B. 1049: AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO REGULATE  
BLIGHTED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

CBIA appreciate what it believes is the intent of this bill to help revitalize contaminated, underutilized or abandoned properties. We are very active and supportive of such efforts.

However, some aspects of this bill may be problematic or, at a minimum, confusing. If passed as written, we are concerned it would not interface efficiently, if at all, with a statute originally intended to give municipalities a mechanism to address neglected housing, neglected sidewalks, overgrown yards, etc.

Section 4 speaks of "safe and sanitary housing" and "abatement of nuisances". While it may be elsewhere, neither "blight" nor "remediate" are defined in this bill. If only to the extent environmental conditions and the remediation of and penalties associated with same are addressed elsewhere (as they are), the bill seems unnecessary, duplicative and inappropriate to have a statute that authorizes the state to collect \$250 a day from the commercial property owner and the imposition of civil penalties of \$10 to \$100 a day with a citation hearing process.

CBIA would be happy to work with committee to address these concerns.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comment.