



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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Testimony of Rep Jeff Berger

In support of HB1082 - AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS AND SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD PROGRAMS

Sections of this bill evolved out of the Brownfield initiatives that began about 6 years ago

Section 1: Municipal Liability Relief Program. Providing relief to municipalities so that they can acquire brownfield sites free of liability constraints is an ongoing goal.

- Municipalities should be able to foreclose and take over these properties, offer them for redevelopment free of concerns from the costs and burdens of liability
- Allows municipalities to assemble properties and offer a larger parcel to a developer.
- This section establishes a program that provides municipalities with certainty in one place.
- It also builds upon the municipal liability relief under the brownfield grant and loan programs. Several years ago, the municipal grant program provided such relief and this program has been quite successful. This program broadens the liability relief to municipalities that aren't going to obtain money (or weren't approved) so that the municipality can acquire the property anyway.
- Gary will talk in more detail about this program.

Sections 2&3: Changes to the significant environmental hazard program. This appears to be part of DEEP's comprehensive reform package. More work is needed here as this broadens the reach of the existing Significant Environmental Hazard reporting obligations. We want to make sure that more brownfield sites are not inadvertently created. We are willing to work with DEEP on this.

- Ann will talk more about this part of the bill.

Sections 4&5: Establishes another form of environmental land use restriction for the brownfield site. This evolved out of the working group.

- Proposed for the last two years.
- More work needs to be done to satisfy all interests
- Good idea as it allows brownfield sites to be closed faster.
- Provides alternatives to allow a new type of restrictions to be placed on the property without the burden of obtaining subordination agreements.
- Gary will talk more about this part of the bill.

We are glad to work with DEEP further on all the initiatives as they still are works in progress.