

Testimony regarding SB 0114

3/18/13

Senators and Representatives thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you on the proposed bill today. My name is Tim Sullivan. I am an organizer with the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. I am a fifty plus year resident of this state. I am here today to call on the legislators in attendance to address the proposed changes in the Harbor Point Infrastructure Improvement District. This proposed legislation will accomplish a number of things for powerful, shadowy influences and organizations at the expense of honest taxpayers and voters in Stamford, as well as the rest of the state.

We welcome the chance to revisit an act that never should have been passed in the first place and are delighted the legislature will have a chance to re-examine the legality of giving corporations the right to vote in CT. This extension of the right to vote was clearly unprecedented in CT history. The legality of allowing a non-human entity to vote was never envisioned or even thought possible prior to passing the previous act. Personally I cannot understand why no state agency or watchdog has even questioned the legality of corporations voting. Nothing in the corporations or their charters complies with, now or then, the requirements of voters in CT as called out in statute. The length of residency and age are just a few that spring to my mind. Yet these creatures of legal construct still control the destiny of voting in this district.

The original legislation has a singularly interesting requirement that the District receive a set percentage of all construction costs in the district. This guarantee appears to be a certainty that the controllers of the district will reap a benefit from any and all construction. Given the complete lack of transparency on the part of this District's current officers there should be no consideration of continuing their existence, definitely no extensions or increased abilities.

Now these corporations and their human puppet are back to once again bury their snouts in the public trough. There is included in this proposal an extension of the terms of current directors. This appears to be a blatant attempt to keep

control from potential future owners in HPIID from being able to interrupt or control the flow of funds to this group. This would seem to be a denial of process. We have gotten no satisfactory response from any agency involved with Harbor Point to account for certified payrolls for the work performed to date on infrastructure in the district. Ladies and gentlemen there were no responses to requests for accounting of these funds, not from the city or the district. There have been serious questions on the payment of wages as well as complying with state statutes regarding taxes and workers compensation. There have been over 34 stop work orders issued on jobsites in the Harbor Point Infrastructure Improvement District. These are jobsites these “corporate voters” controlled and created as of 2012.

There has been a long running failure of this District and the majority of their current officers failing to allow the general voters’ access to minutes of the Board, in marked contrast to the majority of boards spending millions in Stamford. However the corporate voters had access to minutes through attendance by their minions on the board.

There is a section of the amendment that asks for the ability to re-direct and control tax funds. The act of even entertaining that ability will only guarantee virtually every municipality in the state will want that ability. I am fairly certain Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury to name a few will also have an interest in garnering income tax and sales tax for their coffers. The financial chaos these financiers and their puppet will wantonly unleash solely to feather their own nest is unimaginable.

As mentioned previously this district in Stamford has had over thirty four stop orders issued according to the Federal Dep’t of Labor. Rewarding law breaking behavior with the access to tax funds is an insult to every legitimate business and every hardworking honest taxpayer in CT. We need a very careful examination of this hastily passed initial legislation. We call out the need to bring the voting into compliance with current statutes, the same statutes that were in place when the legislature passed the enabling legislation. The legislature has that very rare chance to deal with a very apparent mistake. That door is open and needs to be

used. The legislature needs to amend this proposal to outlaw corporate voting and return Stamford financial control to the citizens that make the city possible and pay for it every day.