



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
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Benjamin Barnes
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Regarding House Bill No. 5968

AN ACT CLARIFYING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Senator Cassano, Representative Rojas and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 5968, AN ACT CLARIFYING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) recently submitted its revised *Draft 2013-2018 Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut* (Draft C&D Plan) to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development (Continuing Committee), in accordance with Section 16a-29 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). The Continuing Committee is required to hold a public hearing on the Draft C&D Plan and submit the Plan with its recommendation for approval or disapproval to the General Assembly.

OPM opposes this bill because the Draft C&D Plan, which is currently being reviewed by the Continuing Committee, already incorporates numerous revisions and clarifications in response to public comments received over the course of fourteen public hearings held across the state. Specific examples of how OPM addressed comments concerning the role of the Draft C&D Plan, relative to state and municipal government and private interests, include:

Page 4: "In summary, the statutory mandate for consistency with the State C&D Plan only applies to state agencies, as outlined in CGS Section 16a-31. The State C&D Plan is advisory to municipalities, due to the fact that there is no statutory requirement for municipal plans, regulations, or land use decisions to be consistent with it."

Page 30: "CGS Section 16a-31(a) requires state agencies to determine the consistency of their proposed actions with the State C&D Plan... Since this consistency mandate only applies to specific state agency actions, the State C&D Plan is considered advisory to municipalities when they update their municipal plans of conservation and development and/or render local land use decisions."

OPM understands that there is inevitably going to be confusion among many, particularly over the Locational Guide Map, so long as the 2005-2010 C&D Plan remains in effect. The Draft C&D Plan acknowledges that the new Priority Funding Area requirements associated with CGS

Chapter 297a significantly change the role of the map, so OPM has devoted an entire chapter to explaining the use and application of the Locational Guide Map.

If, after the Continuing Committee holds its public hearing, there remains a desire to further clarify the application of the C&D Plan, OPM recommends that any such clarifications be addressed in the Plan rather than in statute.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. As always, my staff and I are available to meet with you to discuss any questions you may have regarding this subject.