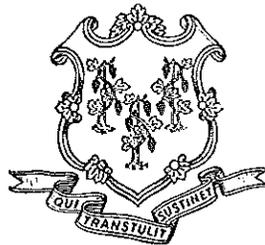


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State of Connecticut

SENATE

Chair

Banks Committee
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Member

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Transportation Committee

February 28, 2013

**Testimony of State Senator Carlo Leone in support of
Senate Bill 706: AAC Governance Boards of Special Taxing District**

Good Morning. Chairman Cassano and Rojas & Ranking Members Fasano and Aman, thank you for taking the time to address **SB 706 AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNANCE BOARDS OF SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS.**

When Special Taxing Districts (STD) was first drafted the legislature created and allowed these special taxing districts to spur economic development and brownfield cleanup for the municipalities requesting this option. Measures incorporated were protective measures for the benefit of all parties affected including:

- Any incoming entity is duly notified of the STD measures
- A timeline of 4 years was created for beginning the STD
- Local municipality has input and signoff via inter-local agreement
- And creation of a governance board to manage the special taxing district

The requested change is to insure that the governing body of our special taxing districts governance boards not only have a seamless transition of governance, but more importantly, allow the initial governing body to complete the proposed and agreed to capital infrastructure investment within the STD footprint.

As originally drafted, there exists the possibility of premature changes to the board prior to the success and completion of the overall project. The new language will form a staggered membership and term on the governance board to insure that any changes to the board are not sudden or disruptive to the incomplete improvements, and allows for a more logical progression of change by allowing a phased approach in election to the board.

By doing so, this will allow the vision of the STD to be fully implemented, and when completed allow the ongoing existence of the board to properly manage its own affairs.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions the members may have.

Sen. Carlo Leone