



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

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**Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of an Amendment to SB 419
and SB 422 (Enterprise Zones)
Before the Commerce Committee**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

10:30 p.m. in Room 1D

Along with my town's Economic Development Coordinator, Don Roe, I request the Commerce Committee add the language of HB 5161 as an amendment to SB 419 and SB 422. House Bill 5161 would allow enterprise zones in municipalities in which postal service processing and distribution centers have closed. I understand the Commerce Committee screening group did not consider hearing this bill because they believed the measure would cover any post office closing. However, the language of HB 5161 only applies to the closing of postal service processing and distribution centers which is occurring in only two CT municipalities: Wallingford and Stamford.

Both municipalities host a postal service processing and distribution center, which is a very large sorting and shipping facility on the scale of a manufacturing plant. A closed processing center creates a mass dislocation of workers and a vacant industrial site. In Wallingford's case, the facility employed 1,200 workers who are being laid off in phases. We believe the remaining 360 workers will lose their jobs this year.

For all intents and purposes, the closing of this facility has the same detrimental impact on our community as a large plant closing. We therefore request the Commerce Committee add the language of HB 5161 to SB 419 and SB 422, which deal with expanding enterprise zones to hospitals and knowledge centers. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

