



CHARTER OAK
COMMUNITIESSM

March 3, 2014

**TESTIMONY CONCERNING:
AN ACT TRANSFERRING FUNDS DEPOSITED IN THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
Raised Bill 363**

Submitted to the Committee on Housing

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Butler and members of the Committee:

Charter Oak Communities (formerly Stamford Housing Authority) supports **Raised Bill 363**. We believe that funds relating to the Community Investment Account should reside within the Connecticut Department of Housing. We are particularly in favor of allocating \$150,000 annually to provide technical assistance for resident development and participation. Your support for this function, which was implemented by Public Act 11-72 - Resident Participation in the Revitalization of Public Housing, is critical to building the capacity of resident organizations.

Charter Oak Communities has completed several public housing revitalization projects. Our success, in each case, and the key to long term viability, reflects the involvement of independent, resident-led organizations within these communities. Through ongoing communication and shared decision-making, residents have helped to inform and strengthen what is often a complicated and lengthy process. Connecticut has shown its willingness to support such capacity building initiatives, and countless successes throughout the state speak for themselves. Organizations such as the Public-Assisted Housing Resident Network (PHRN) have been in the forefront of this movement for many years. With the dependable funding sought under this bill, such efforts will continue and be enhanced as Connecticut takes on the challenges of revitalizing its portfolio of public housing properties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

Vincent J. Tufo
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Charter Oak Communities