

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
February 14, 2014

W. David LeVasseur
Acting Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy Division
Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Regarding Raised House Bill No. 5058
An Act Concerning Growth-Related Projects

Senator Osten, Representative Rojas and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Raised House Bill No. 5058, An Act Concerning Growth-Related Projects.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) supports the proposed amendment to CGS Section 16a-35c(a)(2) to increase the dollar threshold for growth-related projects from \$100,000 to \$200,000. This proposed increase would also equate to the \$200,000 threshold applied by state agencies when determining the consistency of their proposed actions with the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan) under CGS Section 16a-31(a).

Both the State C&D Plan and growth-related project thresholds were originally set at \$100,000. However, Section 2 of Public Act 07-239 raised the State C&D Plan threshold to \$200,000, without any corresponding change to the growth-related project threshold. Given the related nature of CGS Chapter 297 and Chapter 297a, OPM believes that equalizing both thresholds at \$200,000 at this time will enable state agencies to more efficiently administer their activities.

OPM also supports deleting the word “additions” when referring to state-sponsored improvements at existing facilities. The resulting language would clarify that “(i) Projects for maintenance, repair or renovations to existing facilities” would not be subject to the priority funding area requirements of CGS Sec. 16a-35d.

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.