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Mrs. Nancy Carmel  
168 Lost District Drive  
New Canaan, CT 06840

March 11, 2014

Planning and Development Committee  
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to ask you to deny your support of the pending bill HB 5507. Changing the appointment authority from the Zoning Commission, which creates the regulations, to the Chief Executive Officer of the town seems to be a change that would create added confusion and uncertainty whenever a new CEO is elected. It would interfere with the issue of precedents, determinations and findings from one ZEO to another. The bill would cause inconsistencies of opinion, creating great confusion in the public sector with regard to zoning and building regulations.

Technically the ZEO could change with each CEO election which could be every 2-4 years with no guarantee of the professionalism of the individual appointed by the CEO. New appointees could be political appointments without the necessary background and training to properly perform the functions of ZEO. Many towns now hire people who have successfully completed the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials to assure that they are professionally qualified to hold the ZEO position. These people are vetted and professional. This bill could be construed, as to look at enforcement, as politically motivated and not related to violations of zoning or building regulations.

I think that this bill would be very detrimental to every town in the State of Connecticut. It will not benefit the community at large in any way and could in fact, cause "cronyism" at its worst.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carmel