



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH  
CONNECTICUT

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March 12, 2014

Chairman Rojas, Chairman Osten, Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

For the record we are submitting testimony on behalf of the City of Norwich in support of H.B. No. 5506 AN ACT CONCERNING SCRAP METAL SOLD ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITIES

Four years ago the City of Norwich had a bronze monument of a kneeling woman known as the "Sarah Osgood" monument stolen from the historic Yantic Cemetery next to Backus Hospital. The monument was over 400 lbs. The thieves cut it into 3 or 4 sections and sold it to a Willimantic/Windham scrap yard. Our police department investigated and contacted local scrap yards. That scrap yard reported the suspicious pieces that had been delivered to them. We were able to recover the heavily damaged/destroyed artifact. With some very skilled artisans at a firm in Massachusetts, and at great cost to the City's Cemetery Fund (over \$20,000) were able to rebuild/restore the monument in 2011.

**It goes without saying that we strongly support this bill.**

In addition our City has experienced many instances of foreclosed properties being stripped of the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems. This is an epidemic not only in our City but across the State and Nation affecting both public and private properties. We have an unfinished hotel in the City that went through a series of foreclosure transactions and thousands of dollars of metal materials were stolen from the site while the property was in limbo.

In California (according to my brother who lives in the Los Angeles area) all scrap yards must record and retain a photocopy the driver's license and thumb print of all customers who bring scrap in to be sold. We strongly support putting real teeth in the laws governing the documentation of the receipt and purchase and sale of scrap metals. I welcome and applaud Representative Steve Mikutel for his initiative in developing this legislation.

Respectfully,

Alan H. Bergren  
City Manager