



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Testimony Regarding Governor's Bill No. 33 An Act Establishing a New Haven Region Development Authority

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Rojas and members of the Planning and Development Committee, my name is Karen Buffkin and I am the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. I am testifying this morning in support of Senate Bill 33, An Act Establishing a New Haven Region Development Authority.

The Governor is proposing the creation of a quasi-public authority to oversee potential development in the City of New Haven and in the greater New Haven Region. The New Haven Region Development Authority would have the authority to work with the City of New Haven or its contiguous towns to stimulate new investments in the City of New Haven within the authority development district, to promote economic development in the region, to encourage tourism in the area in conjunction with the City and the Department of Economic and Community Development. The New Haven Region Development Authority will also play a critical role in the development of housing in the development district that is bordered by Union Station, the downtown development area and Yale New Haven Hospital.

The new authority would, at the invitation of a contiguous town or the Mayor of the City of New Haven in areas outside the boundaries of the authority development district, provide assistance in development and redevelopment projects. The New Haven Redevelopment Authority is modeled after the recently expanded mission of the Capitol Region Development Authority.

The bill permits the authority to enter into an agreement with the City of New Haven to provide administrative staff support to the Authority and to enter into management agreements permitting the authority to manage the operations of a facility. The authority would have the authority to issue revenue bonds.

The proposed New Haven Region Development Authority is the result of discussions with the City of New Haven. I would like to note that we are continuing to work with the city of New Haven on the boundaries proposed for the development district as set forth in the proposed bill.

The New Haven Region Development Authority creates a dynamic and critical partnership between the State, the city and the surrounding region that will enable us to better leverage strategic investments in housing, economic development and attract visitors that complements our investments in transit oriented development.

Thank you.