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March 5, 2015

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Members  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I live in Ridgefield, one of the affluent Fairfield County suburban towns that people joke about for their supposed snobbishness.

That's a caricature, of course. Scratch the surface, and you'll find a lot of need here. In addition to people working lower-wage jobs, you'll find people whose economic circumstances have changed for the worse via divorce, unemployment or personal tragedy. There are seniors who are struggling and young people forced out of the town they grew up in. Then there are the small businesses that can't thrive because they can't find people to work for a salary they can afford to pay.

For 17 years, I was the chair of the Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee. Unlike the cities, we have no housing professionals here. We have had to educate ourselves, and by doing so we have accomplished quite a bit, relatively speaking.

We could not have done it without the technical support of organizations like LISC and the Partnership for Strong Communities.

If you vote to defund the CIA, it will have a direct, negative impact on people in Ridgefield whose need may not be visible to you but is very real to us.

I cannot testify in person because I am a volunteer with a demanding day job. But affordable housing is my passion, and I hope you will not derail our efforts to make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Goldenberg", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Goldenberg  
Former Chair  
Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee