

9 March 2015

To the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
Senator John W. Fonfara
Representative Jeffrey J. Berger

Testimony regarding elimination of the Community Investment Act.

Re: S.B. 946 An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget.

I am a founding member of the Milford Preservation Trust and also am now retired as Milford's City Historian. As such, I have been involved in historic preservation issues for many years.

Just a week ago we succeeded in getting the Milford Board of Aldermen to pass an ordinance establishing a Historic Preservation Commission, as allowed by the provisions of Section 7-148 of the General Statutes. One of the talking points we gave in support of the ordinance was the availability of funding through the Community Investment Act. Removal of this funding effectively pulls the rug out from under us in persuading homeowners to have their properties protected under the provision of this ordinance.

Funding for the Community Investment Act comes from a \$40 recording fee on every real estate transaction. Thus no taxpayer funds are being used and the money is not coming from the General Fund. This is a special fund dedicated to the purpose of supporting historic preservation, protecting open spaces, preserving farmland and creating affordable housing. This amounts to a "raid" on a special dedicated fund which was established at the time the act was passed so that there would not be any further burden on the taxpayers.

I am well aware of the budget difficulties that you are facing at this time and many worthy programs will be cut or even eliminated. Yet, to raid a special fund established so that the General Fund would not be affected strikes me as very unfair.

Respectfully,

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