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Testimony for the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee public hearing on March 9, 2015

Senator John W. Fonfara, Representative Jeffrey J. Berger, Members of the Committee:

In Opposition to SB 946 Interception of funds for the Community Investment Act

I am Anita Mielert, a former First Selectman of the Town of Simsbury, past Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and past president of Connecticut Preservation Action. I have appeared many times in the past in defense of the Community Investment Act, and I hope that, as a result of this hearing today, forward thinking will prevail, and the CIA will once again be preserved to do its good work.

As I thought of my testimony here today, I considered all the good work this measure has accomplished in hundreds of projects all over the state. In Simsbury alone, it has funded renovations to the historic community center, preserved working farms, and saved open space from destruction.

You will hear many specific cases today, I am sure. But on the big picture, think of this money which comes from a land use activity and which goes back into land use-based projects as a grass roots method to realize each community's priorities.

CIA is intelligently constructed:

It doubles itself with matching fund requirements.

It employs engineers, architects, craftsmen, farmers, carpenters.

It helps towns fulfill their plans of development.

It supports local food, including dairy.

It funds new homes for struggling families.

It rejuvenates downtowns by putting old buildings to work again.

If this sweep occurs, it becomes Just Another Tax.

Just. Another. Tax.