



Toni N. Harp
Mayor

City of New Haven

Office of the Economic Development Administrator
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510



Matthew Nemerson
Economic Development
Administrator

Government Administration and Elections Committee March 16, 2015

Representative Jutila, Senator Cassano, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I'm Stephen Fontana, Deputy Economic Development Director for the City of New Haven, and on behalf of Mayor Toni N. Harp, I wish to thank you for including three parcels located in New Haven in **HB 6998**, AAC The Conveyance Of Certain Parcels Of State Land, to request one minor edit to one section of it, and then to testify in favor of it.

First, Section 1 of the bill addresses property at 470 James Street in New Haven, known as the "Connecticut Transit Garage" site. Last year, the General Assembly sought to convey this property to the City, but in doing so assigned the City responsibility both for the costs of cleanup and liability for that contamination. Unfortunately, the City does not have the financial wherewithal to accept responsibility for the property's cleanup costs, much less all liability for it.

The language in HB 6998 helpfully addresses this cost and liability issue, but does not reflect our latest discussions with DECD regarding how best to redevelop the property. To provide us with maximum flexibility to design a proposal that satisfies both our interests and DECD's purposes, we would ask that you delete subsection (b) of Section 1 (lines 13 through 21).

Second, Section 2 of the bill addresses property at 101 College Street in New Haven, across from the Alexion Pharmaceuticals building due to open this fall. Thankfully, we are experiencing a significant upsurge in interest in high-quality laboratory and office space in downtown New Haven, and this property, which currently exists as "air rights" over a portion of Route 34, is very valuable for this purpose. Passage of Section 2 will allow us to promote further redevelopment, job creation, and property-tax base growth in this highly sought-after corridor.

Finally, Section 6 of the bill addresses the Fort Nathan Hale Park Pier, located in Fort Nathan Hale Park on the east shore of New Haven. The Pier needs substantial rehabilitation, due to damage from various storms, but the Pier currently is DEEP's responsibility. Passage of Section 6 would allow the City to take control of the Pier and to perform those needed repairs with help from DEEP which it is prepared to provide.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you make the one minor change described above, and then act favorably on **HB 6998**. Thank you for your consideration.



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