

February 3, 2015

**Housing Committee - Public Hearing on**

**Proposed H.B. No. 6132, An Act Concerning Emergency Power in Senior Housing Complexes**

**Written Testimony of Cathy K. Forcier**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Housing Committee –

I'd like to thank Representatives Porter, Dillon, Walker, Candelaria, Lemar, Megna, Looney and Winfield for their good intentions in introducing this bill.

I have been a public housing practitioner for over 25 years. My experience includes being the current President of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials more commonly known as CONN-NAHRO. I am currently the Executive Director of the Wethersfield Housing Authority.

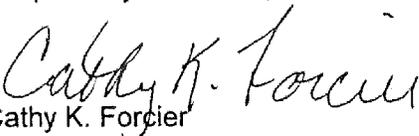
I would love to see uninterrupted utility services to all citizens. However I can only support H.B. 6132 requiring emergency power in senior housing complexes if the state of Connecticut will provide the funding to do so.

It is unclear if the intention is to ensure power in community rooms and thus acting like a shelter. Housing authorities do not have the staff nor the expertise to provide this service.

If the intention is to provide utilities to each individual apartment that would be ideal but very costly. The cost would prohibit most, if not all, housing authorities from providing this service. If the funds were available this would not be a current issue as housing authorities are very concerned about their residents' health and safety.

It would be wonderful if the state of Connecticut were able to fund this venture so that every individual was assured of heat and lights in the case of a power outage. Again, housing authorities do not have the funding to do so and would require other sources of funding.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cathy K. Forcier