



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



Evonne M. Klein  
Commissioner

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 6, 2015

Evonne M. Klein, Commissioner  
Department of Housing

GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 6851 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT TRANSIT  
CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Cassano, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Linares, Representative Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee. My name is Evonne Klein and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Housing (DOH). Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you regarding Governor's Bill 6851, which would create the Transit Corridor Development Authority (TCDA), whose main focus would be on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) projects within a half-mile radius of any transit station.

The Department of Housing **SUPPORTS Governor's Bill 6851: An Act Establishing the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority** as introduced by legislative leadership, on behalf of Governor Malloy. Should this be approved, the TCDA would bring together the relevant state agencies and leadership to work directly with chief elected officials of municipalities where development will occur. This engagement is critical to the success of these capital projects, from the planning stage through completion. Housing is a vital component of transit-oriented development and for the Department to have a seat at the table will ensure coordination of efforts and funding.

As Chair of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), I have seen firsthand the success that follows when the priorities and goals of organizations with overlapping missions are aligned. As a board member of the Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA), our approach is holistic. The main focus of CRDA is to stimulate economic development and new investment in and around the greater Hartford region while also expanding housing developments as a way to enhance the economic and cultural vitality of the area. Since so many of these board priorities overlap, many of the already established processes that CHFA and CRDA use will also be valuable to the TCDA board.

What we know at the Department of Housing is that TOD projects are critical to improving access to affordable housing in Connecticut. TOD projects can be located statewide near transit stations, allowing residents the ability to access shopping and recreational venues without further burdening our congested roadways. TOD projects expand affordable housing, stimulate the economy, and upgrade crucial infrastructure where it is needed most.

The Department of Housing supports Governor Malloy's proposed bill, as drafted. We are excited for the opportunity to expand affordable housing opportunities in Connecticut and we urge the committee to support this legislation.