

Dear Senators, Representatives and Members of the Public:

I am not able to make it this morning to the public hearing, but I wanted to add my thoughts.

The Tax Increment Financing legislation under Chapter 130 gives municipalities a tool to help with development and redevelopment of properties in our State. The economic development and planning community understands the importance of this program. In fact, it is a great option for the re-use of properties with environmental issues, those with absentee landlords as well as properties that are not profitable in the short term, but could be in the long-term.

Having this tool allows communities to look at those long-term possibilities on a project compared to a very short-term look that is often the driver in the private sector. With the expansion of the TIF Program, you would help towns such as Berlin to create specific districts where we could steer development as well as private investment.

In Berlin, we are working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the creation of a new train station in town. A program such as one proposed under Bill 677 could assist in the growth of the area as well as enhance the ability of the public and private sector to work together to increase our tax base, create jobs and make not only Berlin, but all of our communities better.

I ask that you consider passing this bill as it does give more tools to towns that sometimes need more creative options to spur development.

Thank you very much -

Chris

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