



TESTIMONY OF RICHARD P. GENTILE, TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

March 6, 2015

SENATE Bill No. 677 AN ACT ESTABLISHING TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING DISTRICTS

Senator Osten, Representative Miller and members of the Planning & Development Committee, my name is Richard Gentile, and I am the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the Town of East Hartford. I am joined here today by Eileen Buckheit, the Town's Development Director.

We are here to support Senate Bill 677 "An Act Establishing Tax Incremental Financing Districts." This bill would simplify the local approval process and broaden the use of Tax Increment Financing for development and redevelopment projects. East Hartford is particularly supportive of the proposed expansion of the types of projects that would be eligible for TIF funding, and the ability to create "TIF Districts" where revenue from one development within the district could be used within the whole district. For example, incremental taxes generated from a redevelopment site on a Town's Main Street could be utilized in part to fund street lights, façade improvements, benches, etc. along all of Main Street. This would allow the overall look and functionality of all businesses within a TIF district to be upgraded based on a revenue stream from one or two successful projects within the TIF District.

For these reasons, the Town of East Hartford supports the passage of Senate Bill 677. We are happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.