



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
1890 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 203
Hamden, CT 06514-3183
203-288-7996 Fax 203-288-7998 www.lwvct.org

CGA Planning and Development Committee

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Comments on:

SB 880 AAC Responsible Development

Comments submitted by Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, Land Use Specialist

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut has long held a position favoring voluntary regionalism, and believes that ideally power flows from the people to their government.

This bill, "An Act Concerning Responsible Development," is intended to require the Office of Policy and Management to study conservation and development in Connecticut. While the bill language is so general as to appear to be putting aside the critical issue of "Smart Growth," the League of Women Voters of Connecticut would rather think that OPM will take the opportunity, should this bill pass, to detail the steps needed to be taken to implement its principles.

If this bill passes, OPM could encourage Councils of Governments to better coordinate the activities of local planning and zoning commissions as they relate to unified Town Plans of Development.

If this bill passes, OPM could take the time to set out standards for measuring regional projects relating to housing, employment and mass transportation and their impacts on the towns within a COG. Tax strategies to discourage further sprawl could also be explored.

And lastly, OPM could present the next year's "Short Session" with a raft of bills to further unify regional planning efforts of COGs.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.