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Testimony by Dennis Cahill, Treasurer, Publicly-assisted Housing Resident
Network (PHRN) , February 9, 2016

-before the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation and Development

Good evening. Thank you for your time and your previous support of PHRN. My name is Dennis Cahill and I am here as a member of the Board of Publicly-assisted Housing Resident Network, PHRN. I live at 651 State Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. For 12 years, the mission of PHRN has been to preserve affordable housing throughout Connecticut, specifically the public housing portfolio, and to organize resident-led tenant groups in public housing, educate residents about their rights, and advocate for residents at the local, state, and federal levels for laws that will improve public housing, We are the only statewide resident-led membership group doing this work in the country.

One year ago, in March 2015, PHRN testified before this Committee because funding for PHRN had been removed from the Governor's budget. With advice and help from our allies in the Legislature, PHRN was granted \$142,500 that is currently being administered by the Department of Housing. During the summer of 2015 we devised a workplan and contract with DOH detailing the work we would do with public housing residents going through revitalization. PHRN has followed this agreement to the letter with on-site resident trainings, follow-up leadership meetings, and regional resident education meetings.

PHRN is here again this evening to request continued funding of our activities on behalf of public housing residents. Without this funding, PHRN is out of business. Our two resident organizers will lose their jobs, the Board will not meet basic expenses, and PHRN will be shut down.