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Bloomfield, Connecticut

Testimony submitted to the Planning & Development Committee  
for the public hearing of March 11, 2016

In support of **SB 328**:  
AAC Municipal Applications for Land Use Permits and Tax Abatements

Members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I am writing in **support** of **SB 328**, "AAC Municipal Applications for Land Use Permits and Tax Abatements".

**As a resident of Bloomfield**, I was dismayed to learn that in late 2015, Niagara Bottling Company had hid behind their engineering firm to submit applications for various land use permits as well as a substantial municipal tax abatement without reasonably disclosing the fact that they would be building and operating a large-scale plastic bottle manufacturing and water bottling plant to service the northeastern United States.

I have come to learn that this is not an uncommon practice throughout Connecticut, where municipal staff and elected officials, as well as residents, are kept in the dark as to the planned purpose of a development project. **Senate Bill 328**, is a step in the right direction in creating greater transparency for projects that a community might deem to be inappropriate for their town.

I would urge you to not only support **HB 328**, but strengthen it by **making such disclosures a requirement** of permitting applications and tax abatement proposals. Currently, the language in the bill makes such disclosure requirements optional for a municipality.

Thank you for your consideration.