

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

### **RAISED HOUSE BILL 5545: AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE TO FAIRS AND FESTIVALS.**

#### **Public Safety and Security Committee**

**March 8, 2016**

Good Morning Chairmen Senator Larson and Representative Dargan, Vice Chairmen Senator Coleman and Representative Verrengia, Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo and Representative Zupkus and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Joseph LaPorte and together with Robert Triano we serve as Co-chairmen of the Southington Italian-American Festival. This is a street festival designed to promote the heritage of Italian-America's and provides a venue of food, entertainment and cultural programs.

We are in strong support of Raised House Bill 5545, An Act Concerning the Applicability of Certain Provisions of the State Building Code to Fairs and Festivals.

This legislation will allow us to continue our street fair and utilize a local thoroughfare to its maximum capacity. Our festival is held on local street in the downtown area that is known for the Italian-Americans who settled in Southington many years ago. During the festival weekend, once a year in July, this roadway is closed to vehicular travel and monitored by local police.

The Italian-American Festival is a free event with attractions for people of all ages and is attended by not only residents of Southington, but also many Italian-Americans from communities all across Connecticut.

Section 1(b) of the bill states the Town fair must be approved by the municipality in which the fair is held. The Italian-American Festival undergoes rigorous inspections by our municipal public safety officials as well as our regional health district officials.

We strongly support this legislation, as it will allow our festival to fully utilize the limited space available on this downtown thoroughfare. The current building code prohibits portable structures from being 15 feet horizontally and extending vertically places an unnecessary hardship on this important event.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph LaPorte  
Co-Chair Southington Italian Festival

Robert Triano  
Co-Chair Southington Italian Festival

