



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**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 Chairman Larson and Representative Dargan, Vice Chairman Coleman and Representative Verrengia, Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo and Representative Zupkus and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit 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.

I submitted this Bill to Chairman Dargan for consideration during this short session as it provides an urgent remedy for the Town of Southington, the community which I serve.

That being said, I can assure this committee that this Bill may also provide a remedy for all communities in Connecticut that engage in street venues such as, street festivals, sidewalk sales, sidewalk farmers markets, community block parties and town green events that utilize temporary structures, including tents or mobile staging when these temporary structures abut a roadway with overhead utility lines.

The text of this Bill is self-explanatory and contains little ambiguity. I'm fairly certain that most of my colleagues will immediately realize the impact that the current building codes would have on many of our communities should this bill fail to become law. Most communities do host one of the many types of events that would be negatively impacted without this legislation.

The local street events, not only in Connecticut but throughout New England contribute to the quality of life we all have come to enjoy. Most municipal settings have a variety of public safety precautions and inspection procedures already in place from both police and fire officials and oftentimes public health officials as well.

I strongly support this legislation, as it will allow communities throughout Connecticut to fully utilize the limited space available in our downtown areas. The current building code prohibiting portable structures from being placed within 15 feet horizontally and extending vertically, places an unnecessary hardship to our communities. I'm certain that all of our communities will continue to focus on public safety and I believe that this legislation will not pose any significant risk to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative David Zoni, 81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

