

March 14, 2016

**STATEMENT OF DAVID KRECHEVSKY, PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR for the WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER, to the
JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY on
RAISED BILL 5425: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF
CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS**

Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, and members of the Joint Committee on Commerce:
Thank you for incorporating my testimony into the public record for this legislation. The
Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 13 towns in Greater Waterbury and represents the
interests of nearly 1,000 businesses in matters of public policy, supports Raised Bill 5425, “An
Act Authorizing the Creation of Connecticut Brownfield Land Banks.”

Brownfield remediation and redevelopment is a key economic development issue, not only for the
state in general but especially for the City of Waterbury and its surrounding communities.
Brownfield sites litter the landscape in Greater Waterbury, posing safety hazards with
contaminated properties and crumbling buildings while adding nothing to the local economy in
terms of jobs, products and/or services. Reclaiming these properties and returning them to
productive use benefits the state, municipalities and taxpayers alike.

Unfortunately, many municipalities do not have the financial resources to acquire, remediate and
redevelop these sites, or are wary of the challenges inherent in such efforts, including federal
liability exposure. Communities also may not have access to the expertise needed in dealing with
the complicated regulatory maze such remediation and redevelopment efforts entail.

Raised Bill No. 5425 offers a workable alternative for municipalities large and small seeking to
clean, reclaim and redevelop brownfield sites. It provides a way to certify qualified nonstock
corporations to acquire, manage and clean brownfield sites for multiple municipalities, while
allowing each individual municipality to control the remediation and redevelopment process
without the burden presented by the prohibitive costs and potential liability.

Perhaps best of all, the legislation does this in a way that adds no additional costs to the state. At a
time when the state faces yet another financial crisis, the proposed legislation to create brownfield
land banks is one the Chamber and its member businesses can wholeheartedly support. We hope
the committee and the full legislature will also support this important legislation.

Please contact me at your convenience with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
David Krechevsky
Public Policy & Economic Development Director, Waterbury Regional Chamber