



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

Chairmen Fonfara and Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Davis, and members of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank you for raising the following bills:

- **S.B. 447**, An Act Establishing A Tax Credit for Businesses That Hire Promise Zone Residents or Are Located In A Promise Zone
- **S.B. 449**, An Act Concerning the Pilot Program for the Alternative Method of Assessment for Commercial Properties
- **S.B. 450**, An Act Concerning Municipal Property Tax Abatement
- **S.B. 452**, An Act Concerning the Admissions Tax on Events at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford
- **S.B. 453**. An Act Concerning Remission of Revenue from Certain Traffic Fines to Municipalities

The City of Hartford strongly supports these bills. Each of these initiatives will provide Hartford with the necessary tools to grow and strengthen the Capital City.

SB 447 would incentivize business growth and job creation by providing a \$2,500 credit for each new employee hired that lives within the Promise Zone. This bill would also provide a corporate tax credit for any business that locates within the Promise Zone. In 2015, the Clay Arsenal, Northeast and Upper Albany neighborhoods of North Hartford were designated as the first Promise Zone in New England. The Promise Zone has an unemployment rate 27%, higher than the unemployment rate during the Great Depression. Under the Promise Zone initiative, the federal government partners with high-poverty communities to support the implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies focused on job creation, increased access to quality, affordable housing, expanded educational opportunities, improved public safety and improved health outcomes. Several members within our federal delegation have supported attaching federal tax incentives to the Promise Zone designation. It is important that Connecticut partners with our federal government to offer incentives to redevelop high poverty communities.

SB 449 expands upon a pilot program that has been in place since 2014. Under this program, participating municipalities can, by ordinance, provide for the assessment of not more than three commercial properties based upon the net profits from the commercial property rather than the value of the real and personal property. If enacted, **SB 449** would eliminate the cap on the number of properties that can be assessed in this way allowing municipalities increased flexibility when considering which property owners and development areas to offer this unique taxation opportunity.

SB 450 would provide municipalities the ability to develop their own abatement structure to encourage development within their town. Under current law, municipalities are permitted to abate taxes for a

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period of time determined by the size of the investment. This bill would eliminate time restrictions and allow municipalities to develop the investment incentives that best suit their town.

SB 452 would allow all revenue generated from the Dunkin Donuts stadium located in Hartford to be remitted to the City of Hartford. Currently, the State of Connecticut collects a 10 percent tax on the price of admission to any place of amusement, entertainment or recreation, except under certain statutory exemptions. However, venues such as the XL Center, operated by the Capital Region Development Authority, and Webster Bank arena in Bridgeport have successfully sought exemptions from the admissions tax. The Dunkin' Donuts Park is being developed without state funding and any revenue generated from the park should be used to support the City of Hartford.

Finally, **SB 453** would require that 50% of fines for blocking an intersection remit to the municipality in which the violation occurred. As the capital city and regional center, Hartford sees its population double each day from the influx of commuters. Despite numerous competing policing priorities, Hartford Police Department (HPD) spends a significant amount of time and manpower enforcing traffic laws. However, under current law the City of Hartford receives a small portion of the fees from citations issued by the HPD. If enacted, **SB 453** would compensate large municipalities for their efforts to protect public safety by ensuring the free flow of traffic in our state's cities, and incentivize appropriate enforcement of traffic laws specifically the prohibition against "blocking the box," which will help improve the commuting experience for tens of thousands of commuters.

I urge you support these common sense measures that will strengthen the City of Hartford.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Bronin", written in a cursive style.

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