



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Friday, February 19, 2015 Public Hearing Testimony Planning & Development Committee

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman and esteemed members of the Planning & Development Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of H.B. 5180 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTATION OF CONCRETE FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS and thank the committee for bringing this proposal before the public.

As you know, numerous homes, public buildings, and businesses in eastern Connecticut communities have been impacted with an ongoing issue commonly referred to as a “crumbling foundation.” This issue has caused tremendous anxiety, financial burden, and, in some cases, a public safety risk to the affected homeowners, the public, and to area business owners. As the Department of Consumer Protection and the Attorney General’s Office continue to perform their ongoing investigation into the cause and extent of the problem, it has come to my attention that a few issues may be able to be addressed prospectively to help limit the impact of this issue in the future, one of which is the concept included in House Bill 5180.

Often times, the current homeowners of the affected homes are the second or third owner of the residence. They are unaware of who built and/ or subcontracted on the original construction of their residence. This concept contained in this bill will help provide this information to future owners of the residence so they can make informed decisions in case this issue is ongoing or a similar issue arises in the future.

Furthermore, if the committee was inclined to expand upon the scope of this concept, I would recommend that the committee consider including language to create a task force to provide the General Assembly with actionable legislative recommendations after the results of the ongoing investigation are known and the beginning of the next legislative session in 2017. This task force could be comprised of agency commissioners, the Attorney General, affected homeowners, representatives from the insurance, home building, concrete, banking, and real estate industries, as well as legislators from the affected

region. This task force could be a good vehicle to help provide guidance to the General Assembly on what the state's role may be regarding the issue and how to best provide recommendations on any available options to help those homeowners in need.

Additionally, I would encourage the committee to take the input from those affected by the issue and consider additional steps that may be actionable now as we await the results of the state's investigation.

Once again, I thank the committee for bringing this proposal before the public, and look forward to continuing to work with the committee regarding this issue of utmost importance to our region.