



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE GARY BYRON
TWENTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Gary.Byron@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HOUSING COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Testimony **In Opposition of Governor's Bill No. 19** **An Act Establishing The Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority**

Planning and Development Committee
March 4, 2016

Chairman Osten, Chairman Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing in opposition of **Governor's Bill No. 19. An Act Establishing The Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority**. The purpose of this legislation is to stimulate new investment, economic and transit-oriented development. This would be conducted within development districts in coordination with municipalities in an attempt to stimulate tourism, art, culture, and education throughout the region. Although improvements have been made since last year's proposal, I still have core objections to this concept.

This legislation would give the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority the ability to: *"Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of personal property and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary"*. I find this centralized authority both problematic and unnecessary.

This bill proposes a top-down approach to development by which a remote state entity may arrogate the discretion of local leaders who know their community best. In so doing, you create a vacuum by which bureaucrats make decisions that may be contrary to the character of our communities and the wishes of our residents. Instead, local development should be spear-headed by local leaders. Rather than adding yet another unnecessary bureaucratic entity, let's allow for a more organic approach.

Giving the state a tool to take control of local land is troublesome. It leads to a slippery-slope in which development projects may take a form that is far different than the ideals of the host municipality. I have been contacted by a number of my constituents who feel this usurps not only their rights as citizens of our State but attempts to destroy their community as they know it.

I would ask you consider these thoughts when voting on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary".

Gary Byron
State Representative – 27th District