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Public Hearing Testimony for March 11, 2016

**Support for Revised SB 328**  
***An Act Concerning Municipal Applications for Land Use Permits and Tax Abatements***

I am a resident of Bloomfield, who recently experienced a total lack of transparency in the zoning, wetlands, and tax abatement process in our town. Despite being a member of the town's environment committee, I knew nothing of the proposed Niagara Bottling proposal until it had received permits from the wetlands commissions, passed the TPZ process, and received a tax abatement. The only notice the public received was a small public hearing ad in the Hartford Courant with the name Ed Lally and Assoc. on it. The wetlands and zoning applications also were filed by Ed Lally for a "manufacturing, distribution, and storage" facility. There was no mention of Niagara bottling, nor of major plastics manufacturing, nor of a huge water bottling facility. Many residents in our community have been outraged that we had no idea what was taking place. Though supportive of economic development, we have the right- and obligation- to help our elected officials make wise choices about that development.

I support Bill SB328 except that the language "**may**" in Section 1 (a) essentially eviscerates the bill. It should read "**shall require**". I presume that any municipality could already insist on such requirements. The bill must MANDATE them. Similarly, Section 1 (b) uses the phrase "**may require**". Again, that should be worded: "**shall require**". We used to sell houses with a "buyer beware" attitude. If you didn't ask or discover on your own, you were stuck with a lemon.....The citizens of CT shouldn't be treated that way with regards to decision making about what economic development they support in their towns. In addition,

Sincerely,  
Valerie Rossetti  
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