



## CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION ACTION

*The preservation community's unified voice at the State Capitol since 1980*

Written Testimony of Connecticut Preservation Action  
By Leah S. Glaser, President

### **SB 338, An Act Concerning the Use of Community Investment Account Funds for Combatting Invasive Species**

Finance Committee - Public Hearing  
March 16, 2018

Dear Members of the Environmental Committee,

Connecticut Preservation Action (CPA) **opposes [SB 338, An Act Concerning the Use of Community Investment Account Funds for Combatting Invasive Species](#)**. CPA is the statewide umbrella organization for local historic preservation groups. CPA seeks to bring together organizations and individuals to unite behind a common public policy agenda at local, state and national levels promoting historic preservation as environmentally and economically sustainable development that invests in communities, creates local jobs, and preserves local, cultural identity.

While CPA strongly supports the efforts and funds to combat invasive species and other environmental initiatives, *we object to the further thinning of these funds* beyond those purposes originally intended.

Our cities and towns have only CIA funding to protect, preserve, reuse, recycle, and revitalize what is left of their best resources. In the historic preservation community, we like to point out that “the greenest building is the one already built.” A policy of recycling and rehabilitating buildings and landscapes to proper historic and energy standards saves far more landfills and carbon emissions than even the best of milk carton recycling programs.

The beauty of the Community Investment Act is that it was originally designed for sectors specific to land use, logically by funding them with town clerk recording fees from real estate transactions. Historic Preservation joins other sectors (open space preservation, dairy/farmland preservation, and affordable housing) with complementary goals that enhance sense of place and more efficient use of existing housing stock and natural resources in line with environmentally sustainable practices. CIA money is all we have for planning and executing appropriate projects, focused upon local development.