



*Creating Great Communities For All*

## **Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association**

**Testimony regarding**

### **Proposed Bill No. 6107– AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ZONING ENABLING ACT AND THE PROMOTION OF MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE**

**CCAPA strongly supports this Proposed Bill**, which affirmatively furthers the goals of the federal Fair Housing Act and brings greater clarity through the statute’s reorganization in **CGS §8-2**. Our organization supported the purpose and intent of a similar bill during the last legislative session but emphasized the importance affirmatively furthering fair housing goals, underscoring municipal responsibility for the required affordable housing plan, and defining the authority for State-level oversight. This Proposed Bill addresses those concerns that were not addressed in last year’s H.B. No. 5132.

CCAPA supports that the State-level oversight and authority is vested in the Office of Policy Management and that the municipal review of the affordable housing plan is at a five-year interval because of the nature of the fluctuating housing market and the nature of the affordable housing crisis. Further, we support the Office of Policy and Management convening a working group, charged with developing and recommending guidelines and incentives for municipal affordable housing plans. CCAPA believes that this would provide the guidance necessary to ensure that Connecticut’s municipalities are meeting their existing and proposed statutory responsibilities, as well as ensuring that the State is an active participant in this process to both assist municipalities and hold them accountable. The timeline, which also pushes the delivery date of the first municipal Affordable Housing Plan out to July 1, 2023, ensures that these requirements will proceed swiftly, and allows municipalities to incorporate housing in a more thoughtful and comprehensive way into their local plans.

CCAPA remains committed to active advocacy, at all levels of government and in the private sector, for the expansion of housing opportunities and furtherance of fair housing in Connecticut. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in the process of shaping this proposal over the last few years, and believe that this bill will continue the State’s progress toward that goal. We stand ready to continue to be a resource to the legislature in this ongoing effort.

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## WHO WE ARE

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) has over 420 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities. CCAPA has long been committed to assisting the legislature and State agencies with developing and furthering responsible growth management principles. The APA is an independent, not-for-profit, national educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities.

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## CONTACTS

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