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# Town of Berlin

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Department of Economic Development

## Testimony in Support of HB 6418 – An Act Concerning Abandoned and Blighted Property Receivership

Senator Casano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Hwang, Representative Zullo and other distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am the Economic Development Director for the Town of Berlin, and an advocate of creative re-use of properties as well as non-traditional solutions to move communities ahead.

The General Assembly was very forward-thinking by allowing receivership in communities of 35,000 residents or more. While this is wonderful for communities of that size, it does leave behind communities like Berlin who have 20,000 residents.

The issue of vacant, dilapidated and blighted properties is not just a big city or large community one. You will find properties that have not been touched in many years in many of our towns both very small and of the size of Berlin.

I would ask that you seriously consider the importance of moving this legislation to the floor for a vote as it would provide professionals like myself as well as leadership at the municipal level an additional tool to move ahead the community through the redevelopment of properties that seem to have no viable future.

Thank you very much for your time today,

Chris Edge  
Economic Development Director  
Town of Berlin

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