



**Connecticut Chapter
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
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September 15, 2015 State Tax Panel

Written Testimony submitted by

John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation

On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Co-Chairmen Dyson and Nickerson and members of the State Tax Panel

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority. We at CONN-NAHRO are writing to request that the Panel support the original Pilot language that specifically sets aside a portion of the Pilot allocation to benefit the housing authority property(ies) in their community. In some cases the dollar figures received by cities and towns increased yet the change in wording has drastic consequences for housing authorities, since it does not require the community to utilize any portion of their Pilot allocation to benefit the housing authority properties. Please see my testimony below from March 2015 that shows the unintended consequences of Pilot elimination. The implementer Bill for FY 2016 restored that language **for one year only**. We are specifically asking the Panel to ensure the original Pilot language referencing housing authorities to be restored permanently.

There are approximately 8,000 low-income families residing in 31 municipalities across the state including Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford, Enfield, Greenwich, Hartford, Mansfield, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, Bridgeport, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Seymour, Sharon, Stamford, Stratford, Westport, Wethersfield, Willimantic and other cities and towns that will be subjected to higher rental payments without restoration of this program. If the PILOT funding is not restored, the Housing Authorities will be forced to increase the base rents for the tenants which will result in rent increases of \$35 to \$118 per month or \$420 to \$1,416 each year. Unfortunately we are punishing the very municipalities who deliver much needed affordable housing in our state. This funding has been in place for nearly 40 years and has resulted in allowing us to deliver on our mission of providing "Safe, Decent and Affordable Housing".

On behalf of our member agencies and more importantly the residents of these properties, we request that you to please include funding for the PILOT program in the 2016-2017 budget.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rumberger