

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

Public Act: 00-168

Bill Number: 5892

Senate Pages: 2377-2380, 2382-2383 6

House Pages: 4499-4505, 5674-5677 11

Committee: Government Administration: 643- 651, 676-682, 693- 703, 776-795 47

Page Total:

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate
and House of Representatives Proceedings

Connecticut State Library

Compiled 2015

S-447

CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
2000

VOL. 43
PART 7
2083-2432

002377

165

pat

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

the machine will be locked. The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of SB437 as amended.

Total number voting, 35. Those voting "yea", 35; those voting "nay", 0. Those absent and not voting, 1.

THE CHAIR:

The bill is passed. Senator Daily.

SEN. DAILY:

Thank you, Madam President. I did vote. It seemed to go green and then go out. So I would like to be recorded in the affirmative on that vote.

THE CHAIR:

The Journal will note.

SEN. DAILY:

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Jepsen.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Madam President, we're going to run one more bill before recessing. That bill is, if the Clerk will call from Page 6, Calendar 526.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 6, Calendar 526, Files 334 and 685, Substitute for HB5892 An Act Concerning The Conveyance

002378

pat

166

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Of Certain Parcels Of State Land, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A" and "B". Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK:

Madam President, thank you. I move the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and concurrence of the bill with the House and I move its passage.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage of the bill in concurrence with the House. Will you remark?

SEN. BOZEK:

Madam President, this is our annual bill which revises existing conditions and provisions of property conveyances. There's a number of towns and with the provisions in this particular conveyance bill, the property reverts back to the state if the town uses the parcel for any purpose other than that specified in the bill and for the purposes of an amendment, I want to yield to Senator Smith.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith, do you accept the yield?

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. Yes, I do. I would

002379

167

pat

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

ask the Clerk to call LC05268.

THE CLERK:

LC05268 which will be designated Senate Amendment
Schedule "A". It is offered by Senator Smith of the
14th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith, just a moment please. Ladies and
gentlemen, once again I'm just going to ask you to take
your conversations outside of the Chamber.

Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. I would urge passage
of the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. This amendment strikes
Section 25 in its entirety and reflects an arrangement
between two parties that are interested in having
ownership of a parcel of property until such time as
they resolve their differences.

I urge its adoption.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark?

Senator Bozek.

002380

pat

168

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

SEN. BOZEK:

Madam President, I agree. This is a friendly amendment and I urge its adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further on this friendly amendment? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, "nay"? The ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK:

Madam President, without objection, I move this to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Senator Jepsen.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Madam President, if the Clerk would call the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

And before we do that, Senator Sullivan?

002382.

pat

170

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Madam President, Second Consent Calendar begins on Page 4. Calendar 496, Substitute for HB5297.
Correction, HB5276.

Calendar 507, HB5523.

Calendar Page 5, Calendar 520, Substitute for
HB5785.

And Calendar Page 6, Calendar 526, Substitute for
HB5892.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Sir. Would you once again announce a roll call vote. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk please announce the tally.

002383

pat

171

Senate

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No. 2.

Total number voting, 36. Those voting "yea", 36;
those voting "nay", 0. Those absent and not voting, 0.

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted. Senator Jepsen.

SEN. JEPSEN:

Thank you, Madam President. I would ask that the Chamber stand at a very, very brief recess and that the Senate Democrats caucus briefly for the purposes of a brief discussion of our tax and bond package.

Madam President, I would also move for an immediate transmittal of all items previously enacted upon this evening so far to the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered. Senator DeLuca.

SEN. DELUCA:

Thank you, Madam President. I would also announce there will be an immediate Senate Republic caucus and ask all Senators to report to the caucus room. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Sir. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess subject to the Call of the Chair.

H-832

CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
2000

VOL. 43
PART 14
4441-4788

pat

261

004499

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 267.

THE CLERK:

On Page 4, Calendar 267, Substitute for House Bill 5892 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND. Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The Honorable Conveyance Representative Fritz from the 90th.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Good evening, Madam Speaker. Welcome to the weekend. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before us on acceptance and passage. Please proceed.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is our annual event on the conveyance of land. It's a great giveaway from the state to many towns, communities throughout the State of Connecticut. Having said all that, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO4741. If he would please call it, and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

pat

262

004500

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

Would the Clerk please call LCO4741 designated House "A".

CLERK:

LCO4741, House "A" offered by Representatives Fritz, SanAngelo et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a strike everything amendment. I move adoption of the amendment, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before us is on adoption of the amendment. Please proceed.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

This amendment is a strike everything amendment. What it does is, it struck the file and then took the sections that were viable and moved them into this master amendment.

There are approximately 36 pages with regard to conveyances. There are 13 from DOT, three from DEP, one from Public Safety and five from the Department of Public Works. There are two for Stratford, three for Manchester, two for Vernon, one Old Saybrook, one Milford, one Meriden, one in Avon, one in New Britain,

pat

263

004501

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

one in New Milford, one in Wilton, one in Newington, one in Wethersfield, two in Vernon and one in the Town of Groton, three in Hartford and one in Prospect.

We have leases. We have validating acts. There's a little bit of something for all four caucuses in this bill. This is a real Mulligan Stew and many, many, many of the items are open space, or passive recreation.

Madam Speaker, I move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before us is on adoption of the amendment. Would you care to remark further on the amendment? Representative Powers of the 151st.

REP. POWERS: (151ST)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to urge my colleagues to support House "A". Having worked with Representative Fritz we have hopefully cleaned all the bugs out and this is ready to go. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Tercyak of the 26th.

REP. TERCYAK: (26TH)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is a good amendment and it should pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Would you care to remark further on the amendment

pat

264

004502

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

before us? Would you care to remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor please signify by saying "aye".

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

All those opposed, "nay"? The amendment is adopted. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO4840. If he would please call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Would the Clerk please call LCO4840 designated House "B".

CLERK:

LCO4840, House "B" offered by Representatives Amann, Collins and Senator Smith.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Fritz.

004503

pat

265

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This amendment is purely technical in nature. In Section 25 there was an incorrect title of the association with regard to the parcels of land and this corrects that mistake. I move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before us is on adoption. Would you care to remark further? Representative Winkler of the 41st.

Would you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Would you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Representative Knopp of the -- if not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor signify by saying "aye".

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

All those opposed, "nay"? The amendment is adopted.

Representative Winkler of the 41st.

REP. WINKLER: (41ST)

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Just in support of the bill as amended. Section 9 is transferring a historic state research facility to the Town of Groton

004504

pat

266

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

for partial use by the Groton Shellfish Commission.

It is our hope to establish an aquaculture shellfish cooperative which would be a first for Connecticut, a win-win situation for the town, the region and the state and I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?
Representative Knopp.

REP. KNOPP: (137TH)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say the GAE Committee is proud to report out the underlying bill and appreciate all the work that Representative Fritz and Representative Powers did in dealing with the amendments and for filing the original proposal and I think these conveyances will benefit the people of the state.

I appreciate the help that was given to Norwalk in the bill and I urge the passage of the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?
Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Mr. Speaker, I would move passage of the bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Will you remark further? If not, staff and guests

004505

pat

267

House of Representatives

Friday, April 28, 2000

to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll
call. Members to the Chamber.

The House is voting by roll call. Members to the
Chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted
please check the machine to make sure your vote is
properly recorded. The machine will be locked. The
Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5892 as amended by House "A" and "B".

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER HYSLOP:

The bill as amended passes. The Clerk please call
Calendar 471.

CLERK:

Calendar 471, House Committee of Conference Report,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES'

SB 558

H-835

CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
2000

VOL. 43
PART 17
5507-5900

005674

gmh

630

House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Without objection, so ordered.

Representative Godfrey.

REP. GODFREY: (110TH)

Madam Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of Substitute for House Bill Number 5892, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND. That is a potential disagreeing action that is not on our Calendar. I would move for the suspension of our rules for its immediate consideration. It's Calendar number 267.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Without objection, so ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 267.

CLERK:

Calendar 267, Substitute for House Bill Number 5892, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND. It's a favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections. The Senate has adopted Senate Amendment Schedule "A".

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Fritz of the 90th.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Good morning, Madam Speaker. Welcome to the last day of the session.

005675

gmh

631

House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before us is on acceptance and passage. Please proceed, Madam.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

On the 28th of April this House unanimously accepted and passed House "A" and House "B" and sent it to the Senate.

The Senate, in its wisdom, chose to straighten out a little part of the bill, very wisely and having said that, I would appreciate it if the Clerk would please call LCO 5892 and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5268, previously designated Senate Amendment "A".

CLERK:

LCO Number 5268, Senate "A" offered by Senator Smith.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What this amendment does, very correctly, it strikes section 25 which deals with

005676

gmh

632

House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

the parcel of land in Milford which is presently under litigation. Senator Smith, in his wisdom, recognized that this should not be part of the conveyance bill until the court decision has been reached.

I move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The question before the Chamber is the adoption of Senate Amendment "A". Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on Senate Amendment "A"?

If not, I will try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill, as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill, as amended?

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ: (90TH)

Madam Speaker, I move passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

005677

gmh

633

House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Would you care to remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board and be sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked.

The Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill Number 5892, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedules "A" and House Amendment Schedules "A" and "B" in concurrence with the Senate

Total Number Voting	137
Necessary for Passage	69
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not Voting	14

DEPUTY SPEAKER CURREY:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND
ELECTIONS
PART 2
409-796

2000

brevity we're glad to invite up Senator Gunther and Representative Miller and the two individuals who are also here from Stratford. You can sit at the round desk her sir. That might make it easier for your microphone to pick up your comments for our transcript.

Just sit right to Representative Miller if you like, on either side is find. Why don't you have a seat on the other side. Senator Gunther would you mind identifying your colleagues.

SEN. GUNTHER: Mr. Chairman it's my pleasure to identify them, especially Larry Miller, I'm very happy to say he's here today. On the far left is Mr. Fred Frassinelli who happens to be head of the Festival Theater, the Stratford Festival Theater.

And also Mr. Griffiths who is I believe our director, executive director? He is the president and CEO, I'm going to have my head handed to me after that one. I didn't mean to demote you. But we're up here Mr. Chairman to speak in favor of HB5892, at least two sections of HB5892.

I'd like to be mercifully brief with you and say that I have submitted written testimony by our town manager who unfortunately couldn't be here. Incidentally, Representative Harkins and Terry Backer, Representative Backer had wanted to be here, both of them are tied up with other meetings here today.

REP. KNOPP: And they signed a letter supporting the?

SEN. GUNTHER: They're all supportive of both actions that are in this particular bill. What this particular bill does at sections 2 to 12 are relative to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. And this is a conveyance and really when you come right down to the brass tax.

Oh, we are now joined by Mr. Timpanelli who is the head of the Bridgeport Industry and Business. And all supportive of the propositions that are here. Actually I think you know that we've been trying for quite a few years now to get this show on the

road, and the past three or four years we've had a real concentrated effort and we've had a good team getting in there to take and get the theater up and going. It is has not been easy, we have had a very torturous road and I know part of the problem that we've had is the bill that we passed several years ago in order to take and open this whole business up.

We have now got a team in here that is doing a job. They are spending a lot of money, contrary to what some people might think we've got a great renovation going on. We've got people on board and I think I'm going to leave that for both Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Frassinelli to cover.

But I want you to know, these are not just local concerns that we have. Actually the town of Stratford definitely be improved and benefit from the theater and also the other proposition that's up here. But this is a regional, in fact it's a statewide program and I might say we might even go into being interstate and international.

Because those of you who went to the Shakespeare Theater and have been there when it was in its hay day thirty or forty years ago knows that this was a great facility up there and we had international reputation. It can be that again and we're on our way and I think we have the team here to do it.

So without going any further on this, if I may I'll switch over to Mr. Griffiths or Larry would you like to make a couple of?

REP. KNOPP: I'll recognize Representative Miller and then we'll hear from the others.

REP. MILLER: Thank you Chairmen Knopp and Bozek and members of the GAE committee. I'm here to support HB5892. I would tell you that Stratford is a distressed city. We took some big hits from the defense industry in terms of jobs and taxes.

Shakespeare Theater is something that we're hoping to get going as quickly as possible to improve our economic climate. I would tell you that back in

its hay day, from 1955 to 1985, the Shakespeare Theater was operating very successfully. It was for a time the number 1 tourist attraction in the state of Connecticut. We drew audiences from Baltimore, Maryland right up to Maine. And we had people come by car, by airplane, by boat, by bus, you name it they were here at the Stratford Shakespeare Theater to see some of the finest actors in the county as well as probably in the world.

So we're hoping that you will vote favorably on this bill. Also, the Stratford Festival Theater in Stratford, Ontario. It's a small community of about 15,000 people. It's a seasonal operation. The economic impact up there for a seasonal operation is \$100 million in the area.

And we're hoping that the Shakespeare Theater in Stratford, Connecticut will do that or double. So please favor us with this bill. Thank you.

SEN. GUNTHER: If I might, just before Mr. Griffiths speaks, there is a recommendation coming from DEP on the possibility of deleting I believe it's lines 330, starting with "such persons" and ending up in line 339 after subsection. This is a recommendation I believe you've gotten, it's been distributed to you.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you, we do have that.

SEN. GUNTHER: Mr. Griffiths, push the button.

DAVID GRIFFITHS: Good morning Representative Knopp, Senator Bozek and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I'm David Griffiths and I'm here with Fred Frassinelli to testify in support of HB5892, AN ACT CONCERNING CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.

I know that you're very concerned, as am I and all of the officers of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Theater, that progress be shown and the best way to show progress is as Representative Miller said was to get some shows up on the board and open to the public.

With your generous initial grant of \$500,000 we were able to upgrade our administrative facilities in a landmark mansion that's part of the Stratford Historical District. The theater had operated with basically no offices out of a couple of living rooms and with a lot of telephones.

We have now put in systems that will help us manage customer service, accounting and cost control. I think it's important that you know that those of us who are the officers and executives of the Stratford Festival Theater feel that while theater is entertainment it is also a business.

It's a business for which we must be accountable not only to you but to the general public as a nonprofit organization. And we intend to have those systems and reporting structures in place and to evaluate the projects with which we get involved.

Not merely from an artistic standpoint but whether these are sound from a marketing and a fiscal responsibility standpoint. I want to thank the state of Connecticut and the town of Stratford for putting their money behind us.

It allowed us to open in June with sort of what I call a demonstration season that will have one Shakespeare play, one American comedy and one musical. And also help us to expand and develop educational and outreach opportunities for the community.

You will be able to see in the actual testimony, I won't go into it now, some of the progress that we have made over the last say eight months. We are also investigating private placement bond financing to build out the property in logical steps over a period of time.

Our objective with the financing package is to raise between \$80 million and \$100 million. There are two points of language in the current bill that I'd ask you to look at and consider perhaps modifying them. The first is the requirement that we produce one Shakespeare play for 20 years from

the date of conveyance. That's lines 328 to 330. In actual fact we will produce more than one Shakespeare annually. But I'm concerned that this clause may affect our ability to secure long-term financing. The second is a reversionary clause conveying the property to the town of Stratford in case of default, that's line 360 to 361.

And as with the previous item, that we feel also affects our ability to secure long-term financing.

I do want to make it clear that a request for review of these items is strictly based on their possible impact on our ability to seek financing.

In no way do we mean to criticize the spirit of these requirements as they were originally and currently set forth.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you Mr. Griffiths, I just want to, we'll certainly look at those two items. But in fact reversionary clauses are quite standard in conveyances of land like this. Mr. Frassinelli do you wish to make any brief additional remarks.

FRED FRASSINELLI: No, I don't think I have anything more to add, other than the fact that we have, we are in the process of installing new seats, new carpets and hope to have the theater refurbished in about two months. And then we will be opening in June with the season and we will be moving into the administrative buildings probably next week and get all those systems up and going.

I think we've made pretty good strides now and we're ready to show you that we can put on some good performances.

REP. KNOPP: As Doc said, I think many of us in this room can remember visiting the veteran Shakespeare theater as a child. I remember Morse Koronowsky doing a performance of King Lear. I'm sure that that's when I decided to become a legislator because I remember his key line in the play is that, 'I am a man more sinned against than sinning.'

So that's, I'm sure, how we think of ourselves up

here all the time. Are there any questions?

SEN. GUNTHER: We have ah.

REP. KNOPP: I'm sorry, Mr. Tippanelli, do you have any brief comments you'd like to make?

PAUL TIPPANELLI: Very brief Mr. Chairman. My name is Paul Tippanelli, I'm President and CEO of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council we're a business membership association representing over 1000 businesses in the greater Bridgeport region.

One of the things that we do is administer the Stratford Chamber of Commerce. I'm here today with that hat on, representing those businesses to urge your favorable consideration of this bill, which as you know would go a long way towards assisting financial the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Theater which we hope will be a significant economic development generator in Stratford.

Partially replacing many of the jobs that have been lost in that community in recent years. Stratford as Representative Miller indicated, is a distressed municipality and your favorable action on this bill will help alleviate that condition.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much Paul. I didn't see you signed up that's why I didn't call on you, I apologize. Larry.

REP. MILLER: Thank you, just one thing. What the Shakespeare Theater might be able to do for a lot of people. I will tell you there is gal that started a little box lunch program at the Shakespeare Theater, and her name is Martha Stewart out of Westport. Look at her today, so, good things will come out of this Theater.

REP. KNOPP: Are there questions for our distinguished friends from Stratford? If not, thank you very much.

SEN. GUNTHER: One other section please, is Section 12, which relates to the former Allied Signal plant. That also is very very important. Not only as a

local issue but as a regional issue. This is a plant that used to have 7,000 to 12,000 people employed, it's vacant and we're trying to get a transfer of this property over to the town. The town has made this application and because of technicality, there is a parcel of land that is entitled by the state and we've had a discussion on this and the only way we can give a clear title to the Army is to have a conveyance of that property.

Section 12 relates to that property. So if we can get that approved and get the title to the Army, they're ready to take and transfer this land to the town of Stratford and incidentally the land that they're talking about in that conveyance is going to be a greenbelt and a park for the town of Stratford ultimately in their plans.

I might also mention that because of the hold up, and it's been almost a year now of trying to get that property transferred, everything is just standing still including an aerospace center that we're trying to create down there in one of the buildings. So this is equally important in the development of our whole area there. So both of those areas are very very important.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much Doc. Thank you very much, we appreciate you coming up today and we may be in touch with you with some additional questions. Thank you.

SEN. GUNTHER: Thank you.

REP. KNOPP: May I ask Representative Wasserman, do you have other individuals with you or are you here?

REP. WASSERMAN: All alone.

REP. KNOPP: Okay.

REP. WASSERMAN: And very brief.

REP. KNOPP: Alright, Representative Wasserman followed by Johnny Yacavone.

REP. WASSERMAN: Thank you Mr. Chairman and good

afternoon, and members of the committee. I'm here on behalf of HB5892, Section 8. I can't refer to the lines, because the language that I have in front of me doesn't have the lines, the legislative language.

But I thank you for raising the bill. This has to do with 3.6 acres of land which the town, which is probably the fastest growing town in the state of Connecticut, with triplication of building permits in the last few years and the number of children increased almost 20% in schools. It's unbelievable.

And the need for fields is very great. I do, I've contacted OPM as to the correction of this and a change needs to be made because the property has been surplus is presently under custody and control of the Department of Public Works.

So that where it says Commission of Mental Health and Addiction Services, that is old language when the hospital still owned the land. Only this land has nothing to do with the current proposal as Chairman Knopp asked me a few weeks ago of the possible transfer sale to the town of the land, this is an abutting parcel having nothing to do with Fairfield Hills Hospital.

But wherever the language Mental Health and Addiction Services appears it needs to be replaced by the language DPW. I think the rest is quite self explanatory. The 3.6 acres would be used for fields. And I do appreciate you're hearing me.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much Representative Wasserman. Maybe you could, wouldn't mind just write us out a little note about the language change that you mentioned here.

REP. WASSERMAN: I have informed attorney Maryann O'Neill. Do you want me to?

REP. KNOPP: If you would send us a note, that will be very helpful.

REP. WASSERMAN: Absolutely. Thank you very much.

REP. KNOPP: Before you go, any questions for our good friend from Newtown? If not, thank you very much Julia, we appreciate your coming today.

REP. WASSERMAN: Thank you.

REP. KNOPP: John Yacavone.

JOHN YACAVONE: Thank you Representative Knopp, Senator Bozek who I believe may still be here and members of the GAE committee. My name is John Yacavone, I'm chief of the legal services division at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

I'm here this morning on one bill, HB5893. This is an act limiting the disclosure of individuals photographs and computerized images by state agencies. The Department of Motor Vehicles supports this bill.

During the past decade, new federal and state laws have been enacted to restrict the disclosure of personal information from Motor Vehicle records as well as other government agency records.

As an agency that maintains data and records on virtually every Connecticut citizen over 16 years old, namely the Department of Motor Vehicles, we have sought to keep current with all the changes in the laws and the new measures that have been enacted in order to insure that all of our offices and all of our employees apply the correct standards with respects to all requests for access and disclosure of information.

Because we are faced with these types of requests and decisions virtually on a daily basis, DMV welcome all efforts by the General Assembly to provide clear direction and guidance.

This bill follows a recent amendment to federal law known as the Driver's Privacy Protection Act as was made last October by Congress. The intent is to adopt the standard of express consent to disclosures of license photographs and images as well as other more sensitive categories of

So I thought that everybody would like to know that before the end of this session we will see his smiling face once again fighting for the things that he believes in. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you. I do want to say that while he was under a large dosage of valium this morning I did get him to sign an open proxy for the chairman, so I warn you Wednesday morning. Thank you very much John, I'm sure that's good news. There's a card going around, if members of the committee or staff have not signed the card, please do so. Our next witness will be the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Bruce Gresczyk, I hope I pronounced that correctly, followed by Patricia Krupp.

DEP. COMM. BRUCE GRESCZYK: Good afternoon, I'm Bruce Gresczyk the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. Good afternoon to all distinguished panelists.

REP. KNOPP: Would you mind to just spell your name of our transcriber, I think it might help.

DEP. COMM. BRUCE GRESCZYK: Yes, Gresczyk.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you.

DEP. COMM. BRUCE GRESCZYK: I'm here in support of HB5892, specifically Section 9, which would be the transfer of state assets known as the Noank Shellfish Hatchery. Until recently it was the possession of UConn, it was transferred to the Department of Agriculture last year and we're requesting that it be transferred to the town of Groton, specifically for an agricultural project.

Why we've come to this is on our coast as you all know our property is extremely valuable. And we have, we've seen condominiums, various projects squeeze our fishermen away from the shores and when they're squeezed off the waterfront it becomes harder and harder to do business.

Right now there are several oystermen, clam men and

fishermen that are coming together to form an agriculture co-op. Basically to come together and have community resources, and the proposal that's going to be coming to the town of Groton is that private industry lease the site and then use it to go forward in their business activities.

I will be happy to answer any questions at this time on this issue.

REP. KNOPP: What I'd like to do just as a courtesy, I've said it to other towns, is invite up Katherine David and Geoffry Conklin, you're here to testify on the same matter, is that correct? Why don't you come up, make a brief statement if you'd like and then we'll ask questions together if you don't mind.

Why don't you sit at the table up here. Why don't you come up now. Have a seat, put the mic on and we'd rather have your input all together. Go ahead sir, why don't you identify yourself for the transcript.

GEOFFRY CONKLIN: Okay, I'm Jeff Conklin, I'm with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2502 Old Saybrook and I would like to endorse the timely transfer of the property at 202 Ferry Road to the Maritime Education Network.

My specific interest is that it would benefit the Coast Guard Axillary at that location to be able to provide public education member training and other services both to its membership and to the public using that facility.

I would also like to change hats briefly and also endorse the transfer as a member of the National Council of the Traditional Small Craft Association whose local chapter of the Connecticut River Oar and Paddle Club would also be providing service to the community and to local youth in terms of the design, instruction, maintenance and use of traditional small craft on the Connecticut River.

I think it would be of benefit to the entire community if this facility were available for the

uses of the two organizations that I represent.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much, we appreciate it very much. Ms. David would you like to also speak on this?

KATHERINE DAVID: Yes. Katherine David, I'm director of the Maritime Education Network. We're a not-for-profit organization in Old Saybrook. We're currently housed between the Bridges Marina which has been a very nice donation from them. Unfortunately the building is slated for demolition for rehab and in the meantime we will have to move from the site.

I have been involved in Connecticut State Department of Education's inner-district grant work for the last three years. There are two different grants that I'm involved in. One is the Sound Connections Grant, it involves students from Hartford, Norwich, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. The main portion of that is on water.

On the Connecticut River and the Long Island Sound.

I've written quite a bit in here, I don't know if I should go through it all or not. But it's an alternative approach to education. It integrates curriculum learning right across the curriculum. We employ many Connecticut certified teachers whose certifications range from pre-school through adult and they represent the fields of science, English, history, social studies, technology, psychology, and special education.

We do include special education children within our program. That goes on, it continues throughout the school with selected schools with agriculture and cultural studies. The second grant that I am involved in is the Sound School, which is regional vocational, agriculture centered in New Haven.

And that particular grant involves itself with experimentation within the classroom with marine and freshwater aquariums. With the two grants I service close to 1000 students from New Haven to Norwich to Hartford. This site would be wonderful,

to say the least.

To have a site where all the children could come, we could set up the fish tank, community boat building, occupational, supervised experience for career education for high school students. The Sound School has expressed an interest in sending students beginning in June, I don't know whether this is going to be passed, it might be a little soon. But we have quite a bit of interest with various schools and local organizations and we're just waiting for a permanent home base.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you, it sounds terrific. And you're luck to have an advocate of Representative Sauer here who though she refuses to have a day named after here, you might name one of those tanks named after her at the aquarium. Claire.

REP. SAUER: Kathy has submitted quite a complete description of the program and I just wanted to add my endorsement too. She's been doing terrific work, I think it's a wonderful program and I'm just happy to answer any questions, but it is all laid out here pretty well.

REP. KNOPP: We have a similar nice program at our Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk with the boat building and shell fish investigation --

KATHERINE DAVID: You have Sound Water don't you?

REP. KNOPP: Yes, among others. Are there questions? Representative Christ.

REP. CHRIST: Good afternoon. I didn't get a chance to read the whole presentation. So you're looking for the state to convey property to your organization. And then you'll be building a new facility?

KATHERINE DAVID: No, at this point we'll be renovating the old. We'll have to provide handicap access, a seating system, things like that.

REP. CHRIST: And the conveyance is permanent right?

KATHERINE DAVID: Yes, unless --

REP. CHRIST: Unless you don't use it for the purpose -- and do you strictly work with secondary level students or do others?

KATHERINE DAVID: Well, at this point I've been involved with middle school students. We will, as soon as this transfer occurs also include high school students. I've just gotten so many calls from different school districts from East Hampton, across the river and I just don't know what to tell them as far as expansion because at this point we don't have a permanent site.

REP. CHRIST: So it's similar to like our vo-ag program where the students would go to a high school for their --

KATHERINE DAVID: Well, the inter-district programs enhance the public curriculum what is offered now. Through the grant different schools are targeted and this is additional programming, it's not to replace the public school. So it could be viewed as a magnet, for interested students.

REP. CHRIST: Okay, thank you.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you, Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK: Thank you for coming today. How large an area is this --

KATHERINE DAVID: It's about a half an acre plus or minus, there are three buildings on it.

SEN. BOZEK: Who occupies it? I missed that earlier?

KATHERINE DAVID: It's vacant.

SEN. BOZEK: It's vacant.

KATHERINE DAVID: It's directly across the street from the state boat launch.

SEN. BOZEK: And the property would go to the town?

KATHERINE DAVID: No, Maritime Education Network.

SEN. BOZEK: Maritime Education, a nonprofit organization?

KATHERINE DAVID: Yes.

SEN. BOZEK: How long have you been in place?

KATHERINE DAVID: Since last April.

SEN. BOZEK: They have some sort of, the town has some sort of purview over then?

KATHERINE DAVID: Well, the department of ed.

SEN. BOZEK: The board of ed?

KATHERINE DAVID: The board of ed of Hartford.

SEN. BOZEK: The state department?

KATHERINE DAVID: The state Department of Education is who I go through for the grant. Any other programming would be on our own.

REP. KNOPP: Alright, any other questions?
Representative Ferrari.

REP. FERRARI: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Bruce on the shell fishing in Connecticut, how much of an industry is that now?

DEP. COMM. BRUCE GRESCZYK: (inaudible - mic off)

REP. FERRARI: On this particular site you're talking about, excuse me you mentioned the shell fishermen and you also mentioned agriculture as well, the other parts of agriculture?

DEP. COMM. BRUCE GRESCZYK: (inaudible - mic off)

REP. KNOPP: And wouldn't you say that the taste of the Blue Point oysters from Talmidge Brothers in Norwalk is second to none in the industry? Thank you, thank you very much. Are there any other questions? Thank you very much all three of you for coming and testifying and thank you

Representative Sauer for your comments.

The next witness will be Patricia Krupp followed by Mitch Pearlman.

PATRICIA KRUPP: Patricia Krupp from Watertown. I am HB5870 the etal on the original complain from Rosalie Loughran to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. Senator Penn was asking some questions, but I don't think he saw the document that was the orientation day agenda and item number two was non-incumbent candidates running for board of education in November election with three candidates and little one line bios, mentioned three candidates not.

So whether they were reached or not, I mean everybody has a period in their life or a day that they can't be reached and then they might not make a meeting the next day. But without being on the agenda it just sort of automatically proved that it wasn't even tried.

The fact is that there was a reprimand at the end of the decision from the State Elections Commission because they had no teeth. They didn't have a law that covered the situation where a town employee was using town funds to produce information (break in testimony - change cassette tape) That's all we're asking for, give them some teeth so that if this should happen again in any town, the State Elections has something that they can do about it.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much.

PATRICIA KRUPP: You're very welcome.

REP. KNOPP: You did it very succinctly, you get the prize today for succinctness. Any questions? Thank you very much. Mitch Pearlman followed by George Cody of the ROVAC, and I'm going to invite all the ROVAC representatives up together if they wish to come.

MITCHELL PEARLMAN: Senator Bozek, Representative Knopp, good afternoon members of the Committee. My name is Mitchell Pearlman I'm the executive director of

voter is able to vote and leave that polling place, go to work and get on with whatever he or she is going to do.

BARBARA MCINERNEY: You just have to remember, once he leaves if he can't vote and if your name is on the ballot, you lost your vote too.

REP. CHRIST: Let's not have any of that.

BARBARA MCINERNEY: We don't want that for anybody.

REP. KNOPP: Maybe the bill could apply just to Waterbury all those problems you mentioned --

BARBARA MCINERNEY: Now that isn't where the problem happened.

REP. KNOPP: I make jokes about Waterbury, but I have often complimented Governor Rowland that Waterbury does have about 110% turn out at elections.

BARBARA MCINERNEY: I wish I did.

REP. KNOPP: Are there any other questions? Thank you very much, we appreciate your expertise and all your insight. Thank you. Our next witness will be our distinguished colleague Representative Lenny Winkler.

REP. WINKLER: Good afternoon Senator Bozek, Representative Knopp and distinguished members of the GAE Committee. For the record I'm Representative Lenny Winkler of the 41st district in Groton.

I have submitted written testimony to the committee so I won't bother reading it. But I just wanted to come before you and speak in support of the conveyance of the property in Noank the state hatchery to the town of Groton, which is number 9 on the conveyance bill HB5382.

HB5892

This will go a long way in establishing a hatchery in the Noank facility of Southeastern Connecticut whereby we'll be having a public private venture and will stand to benefit our community and the

state as a whole.

Representative Knopp, as you know, Norwalk is way ahead with the oyster industry. This will include oysters, scallops and clams. I am concerned about one section of the bill however, which was Section B. I did share this with the town of Groton, and they did fax up a, some concerns that they had on this.

Which basically it states that the draft bill prevents the town of Groton from leasing any of that property to anyone else or it would revert back to the state of Connecticut. And because the facility is so large and there is the possibility of opening a co-op of fishermen into that facility this would prohibit us from doing that. So I am asking if you would review that area and take into consideration what the town of Groton has submitted to you.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you. If I could just give a response to that comment if I could, what we generally do is try to say that the lease has to be related to the agriculture purpose so that there is some limitation in some way.

REP. WINKLER: But in reading that, it didn't say that.

REP. KNOPP: Correct, I think the current language is too broad but in amending it I think what we'd probably do is not remove all restrictions on leasing, but say that the lease has to be for the underlying purpose of agriculture that they conveyance is being made for. You couldn't lease it to a car wash.

REP. WINKLER: No, I know, I hear what you're saying and I appreciate that. Also for the record I just wanted to state that it's my understanding that the Department of Agriculture would be maintaining a presence on that property as well and they would be working in conjunction with the public-private venture at the hatchery.

Earlier in the year there was \$250,000 that was also approved by the Bond Commission for

improvements needed to that building and that money would also be going forward at the same time that the property was transferred, although it doesn't state that in the legislation. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much. Are there questions for Representative Winkler? Thank you very much. I'm sorry, Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK: The agriculture people were here before, they proceeded you, Bruce Gresczyk we had here, he spoke favorably obviously, just if you were unaware of it.

REP. WINKLER: Very good, thank you.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much Lenny we appreciate your coming here.

REP. WINKLER: Thank you.

REP. KNOPP: Let's see, since Sonny Googins is not here, Ed Musante of the great city of Norwalk. And Ed I just wanted to say as a matter of fairness since I've restricted other speakers I want to tell you to take as much time as you need. Just kidding.

EDWARD MUSANTE: Maybe we can talk about shellfish in Norwalk. Good afternoon Chairman Bozek, Chairman Knopp, and members of the Committee. My name is Edward J. Musante Junior, I'm the executive director of the redevelopment agency of the city of Norwalk.

The agency serves as Norwalk's community development, economic development, urban renewal and housing site development agency. I am here before you to offer testimony and speak in favor of HB5892, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.

More particularly I am here to speak directly to Section 6, subsections A, B, and C. Where it is proposed that a parcel of land formerly known as the South Norwalk Rail Yards be conveyed to the city of Norwalk for urban renewal, economic

development, and housing purposes.

This parcel of land lies between, lies within Norwalk State enterprise zone and our Reed-Putnam urban renewal area. It is currently the subject of the long term lease by the city of Norwalk from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for surface parking purposes.

Upon conveyance it will be used by the city in the following manner. A portion of the property will be added to adjacent city owned land that is presently being developed as a state Heritage Park.

As specified in the urban renewal plan and by the state Heritage Park program as conceived by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

A small portion of the property is currently being developed as part of a new local roadway system that provides access to the new Heritage Park as well as to the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, one of the leading tourist attractions in Connecticut.

The Heritage Park also connects the Maritime Aquarium to Matthews Park which houses the restored victorian mansion known as Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum, along with the Stepping Stones Museum for Children which is a wonderful educational resource for Connecticut and the greater region.

Stepping Stones opened its doors for the first time to the public this past weekend. The remainder of the property approximately 3.5 acres will be used for the construction of new housing as specified in the urban renewal plan. It will be constructed by a private developer as part of a major development agreement which is currently in the final stages of negotiations.

The city of Norwalk has been working closely and cooperatively with the division of rail operations and the Bureau of Public Transportation of CDOT for several years for the conveyance of this property.

In consideration for the proposed conveyance and in order to satisfy the needs of CDOT and Metro North

Commuter Railroad, the city was required by CDOT to perform three tasks. 1) fund the construction and prepare a site for a maintenance rail along side the existing Danbury branch of the Metro North Line.

2) Take the responsibility for relocation of the existing business on the subject property and 3) to lease to CDOT, city owned land across the river that will be eventually used as a construction lay down area for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the Walk Railroad bridge.

I'm pleased to report that each of these requirements has either been completed or is in the late stages of construction. We have leased the requested property to CDOT, the relocation of the existing tenant is now complete and we are in the last stage of completion of the city's portion of the work for the railroad construction.

Norwalk has also secured a federal grant that will fully fund Metro North's construction of the maintenance track. A new survey map of the proposed conveyance parcel showing the area to be reserved by CDOT for this maintenance track is being prepared at this time and will be available to your committee within the next seven to ten days.

Just last week CDOT asked the city to perform an additional task. That being defined six parking spaces for the Metro North employees involved in the switching operations for the Danbury branch line. Within 24 hours of the call to us we responded by making arrangements for these parking spaces.

As you can see, this piece of land is very important to the city of Norwalk. It will give us all the land necessary to complete the State Heritage Park, which is an important amenity for our overall Reed-Putnam project.

It will also allow our private developer, Spinnaker Companies, to complete its overall plan to preserve the historic Lock building, to build a public

parking garage and to provide waterfront housing and a retail complex adjacent to the Maritime Aquarium.

The overall economic benefits of the entire Reed-Putnam project are significant. It will provide nearly 3,500 new jobs to our region and state, increase the tax base in Norwalk significantly and provide new sources of corporate income tax to the state of Connecticut.

It will also aid in expanding Connecticut's tourism economy by providing much needed parking to the growing Maritime Aquarium and the SONO Historic District. The city of Norwalk respectfully requests your approval of HB5892, thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak to you this afternoon on this important subject and thank you for your consideration of this bill.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you very much Ed. You can just give a yes or no answer if you like. Are the conditions in the bill satisfactory in terms what would happen if the property were not used for these purposes?

EDWARD MUSANTE: In terms of the reversionary clause? Yes those are fine. We expect, the park land we expect to be there for ever and the other uses we expect to be there for just as long, and if they aren't we have no problem turning it back to the state.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you. Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK: Thank you for coming Ed. I have this question, of the 7.8 acres 3.5 or so is to be used for housing. Is any of this housing going to be used for subsidized rental housing?

EDWARD MUSANTE: It is expected under the plan for this housing to be market rate housing.

SEN. BOZEK: That's not what I asked you?

EDWARD MUSANTE: I'm sorry.

SEN. BOZEK: I asked you if any of it would be

subsidized rental housing?

EDWARD MUSANTE: We expect that it will be rental, but in terms of subsidy, I don't think there is any direct plan today for a specific subsidy program. However, if there were subsidies that were available that might be a possibility.

SEN. BOZEK: Will all these rentals in the market rate will that all be paid by the tenants, there will be no subsidies from the government or the state for rental subsidy, entitlement or Section 8 housing?

EDWARD MUSANTE: Well, it's difficult, if someone comes with a Section 8 certificate, someone, you cannot discriminate on the source of income. So if someone comes with a Section 8 certificate it's not a problem. If you're asking will there be a subsidized program involved in the financing up front, I do not believe that there will be.

SEN. BOZEK: (inaudible - mic off)

EDWARD MUSANTE: Subsequently if someone came with a certificate, yes they would have to be acceptable, certainly.

SEN. BOZEK: (inaudible - mic off)

EDWARD MUSANTE: It is not designed for them, it is designed for market rate housing. But someone with a Section 8 certificate as we understand the law would be able to rent the unit.

SEN. BOZEK: How many square footage and different size, bedrooms if you might enumerate, whether it's two, three or four bedrooms?

EDWARD MUSANTE: Sure. As it is envisioned today, while we don't have architectural plans, it is envisioned to be a combination of mainly one and two bedroom units with apartment sizes ranging from 750 square feet upwards to maybe 1100 or 1200 square feet for the larger units.

SEN. BOZEK: Would most of these fit, would most of these better fit seniors?

EDWARD MUSANTE: Seniors would I think be a target population. Probably empty nesters or young marrieds and singles.

SEN. BOZEK: 750 square feet sounds kind of, sounds small. And what is the target group that live there? People who work near the downtown or is it? This is in the approximate area of the more business downtown district?

EDWARD MUSANTE: (inaudible - mic off)

SEN. BOZEK: Let me give you a statement and you can respond. I have some great difficulty in urban cities where they're building housing in the approximate area, in the downtown area. The main reason is it's not the right place to bring up children.

But sometime developers are taking advantage of these locales. What they've wound up doing is becoming a burden on the communities rather than an asset. Why I'm questioning you, I'm hoping that where you might do housing is a need, the housing is a need to support the people who want to work in that infrastructure surrounding them, rather than being considered kind of staying there forever raising a family.

EDWARD MUSANTE: Senator, may I assure you that um, the plan within this area is for this not to be family housing. We have a number of other areas in which we are concentrating family housing. This is, as you mentioned, it is a downtown area. We expect empty nesters, young singles, young married, seniors, of that type.

But there will not be the same level of facilities within this type of housing complex for children of any significant amount. Certainly this is not developed with playgrounds and with play areas. So this would be more or less your typical urban apartments for people who hopefully are going to be working close by.

SEN. BOZEK: Alright, if I heard my question earlier

thinking, you had these park developments and I'm not familiar with really the broad scope of Heritage Park and the Stepping Park and that type of stuff.

But I was just saying if you're going to create the park atmosphere and then you're going to create the housing, what I'm envisioning not being in Norwalk, here we go in our urban area you're going to create an avenue for people to trans-place themselves -- to my concern is transient -- and then utilize these services will be in a down town areas which kinda would be working against the idea of you wanting to have something that's vibrant. But what you're saying is that the park area is not a direct relationship, a recreation area for children.

EDWARD MUSANTE: That is correct. The park area is basically to preserve waterfront land for, and to be used by the Maritime Aquarium quite frankly for their educational programs. And it is also a reclamation of a previous landfill. So it serves many purposes but it is not there as an amenity to the housing.

SEN. BOZEK: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you Senator Bozek, you appreciate your interest in Norwalk. Representative Dickman.

REP. DICKMAN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Senator has generated a question in my mind if you don't mind, I wouldn't have asked it otherwise, but the housing portion. Are you selling it to this private developer or are you giving it to him, or what's the story here? Who's going to own the land underneath?

EDWARD MUSANTE: Sure. The housing portion would be sold by the city to the developer.

REP. DICKMAN: And the city would retain the funds?

EDWARD MUSANTE: The funds from the sale will go into for the public parking garage to be built immediately across the street from the Maritime Aquarium. And that is, instead of asking for a

state grant we've decided if we can get the land and we can use the proceeds for a public garage it would be the same effect.

REP. DICKMAN: Thank you.

REP. KNOPP: Thank you Representative Dickman. Senator Bozek.

SEN. BOZEK: With regard to the not withstanding provisions in most of these transfers of property where the property is not used for the intended purpose the property would come back to the state. What would occur when I would purchase the property to build new housing and how long in perpetuity am I going to be able to transfer or own this property? Do I own this for that building purpose? Do I pass it on to my heirs, do I sell it, and when does it come back to the state when it's not being used for housing?

I would assume that with our transfer with the state that we would have those restrictions obviously. We would have to pass those restrictions along in the deed and those would have to be filed on the land records. We have that, quite frankly, in a number of other situation with Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development where they have subsidized various developments and there are deed restrictions regarding the use of that property particularly when funded by DECD.

And so if in fact I think a mortgagee will have to look at this very carefully, but if in fact the use is not there, the property could be confiscated. So I do not see that as a particular problem, it will be a deed restriction, we have done that previously.

SEN. BOZEK: You know on these types of properties are there any agreements when it's not being used that it doesn't encumber the city the cost of demolition that they are responsible for that type of occurrence?

EDWARD MUSANTE: Yes, we would have that type of an

agreement.

SEN. BOZEK: Thank you. Good luck.

REP. KNOPP: Any other questions? We appreciate your testimony, hope all my colleagues come down to visit.

EDWARD MUSANTE: Thank you very much.

REP. KNOPP: Our next witness is Mr. Lloyd Kaufman. Do you have written testimony Mr. Kaufman?

LLOYD KAUFMAN: No, I do not. Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Representative Knopp, Senator Bozek and members of the committee. My name is Lloyd Kaufman and my colleague is Lorna Christy, we represent the company called Image Data, LLC out of Nashua, New Hampshire, a technology innovator of high performance transaction processing services that protects consumers and businesses from identity based crimes. HB 5893

The purpose of our being here today is to address the disclosure of photo and computer images for the Department of Motor Vehicles for the sole purpose of identity verification and fraud preventions. A year ago we addressed this committee regarding identity crimes.

Identity crimes as you may recall is the fastest growing crime in the United States, growing at approximately 17% a year. We not estimate that it's costing American citizens and consumers over \$25 billion a year.

In the state of Connecticut it's costing over \$300 million a year. During the last several months we've actually spoke with victims from the state of Connecticut who have been victimized by this crime.

And we'd be more than happy to furnish their names and they have told us that they would be more than pleased to address this committee at some future date, at an opportune time in the future.

Last year we discussed with you the, what we call our first generation in trying to obtain the photos

TESTIMONY OF
EDWARD J. MUSANTE JR.
BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE OF THE CONNECTICUT HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVE^c

HOUSE BILL NO. 5892

MARCH 13, 2000

Good Afternoon, Chairman Knopp and Members of the Committee. My name is Edward J. Musante, Jr. I am the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Norwalk. The Agency serves as Norwalk's Community Development, Economic Development, Urban Renewal and Housing Site Development Agency. I am here before you to offer testimony and speak in favor of House Bill No. 5892, "An Act Concerning The Conveyance Of Certain Parcels Of State Land".

More particularly, I am here to speak directly to Section 6, Subsections (a), (b) and (c), wherein it is proposed that a parcel of land, formerly known as the South Norwalk Railyards, be conveyed to the City of Norwalk for "urban renewal, economic development and housing purposes". This parcel of land lies within Norwalk's State Enterprise Zone and our Reed Putnam Urban Renewal Area. It is currently the subject of a long-term lease by the City of Norwalk from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) for surface parking purposes. Upon conveyance, it will be used by the City in the following manner: a portion of the property will be added to adjacent City-owned land that is presently being developed as a State Heritage Park, as specified in the Urban Renewal Plan and by the State Heritage Park Program as conceived by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. A small portion of the property is currently being developed as part of a new local roadway system that provides access to the new Heritage Park as well as to The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, one of the leading tourist attractions in Connecticut. The Heritage Park also connects the Maritime Aquarium to Mathews Park, which houses the restored Victorian mansion known as Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum along with the Stepping Stones Museum for Children, which is a wonderful educational resource for Connecticut and the greater region. Stepping Stones opened its doors for the first time to the public this past weekend. The remainder of the property (approximately 3.5 acres) will be used for the construction of new housing as specified in the Urban Renewal Plan. It will be constructed by a private developer as part of a major development agreement, which is currently in the final stages of negotiation.

The City of Norwalk has been working closely and cooperatively with the Division of Rail Operations in the Bureau of Public Transportation of CDOT for several years for the conveyance of this property. In consideration for the proposed conveyance and in order to satisfy the needs of CDOT and Metro-North Commuter Railroad, the City was required by CDOT to perform three tasks: (1) fund the construction and prepare a site for a maintenance rail alongside the existing Danbury Branch of the Metro-North line; (2) take the responsibility for relocation of the existing business on the subject property; and (3) to lease to CDOT City-owned land across the river that will be eventually used as a construction lay-down area for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the Walk Railroad Bridge.

I am pleased to report that each of these requirements has either been completed or is in the late stages of construction. We have leased the requested property to CDOT; the relocation of the existing tenant is now complete; and we are in the last stage of completion of the City's portion of work for the railroad construction. Norwalk has also secured a Federal grant that will fully fund Metro-North's construction of the maintenance track. A new survey map of the proposed conveyance parcel showing the area to be reserved by CDOT for this maintenance track is being prepared and will be available to your Committee within the next 7-10 days.

Just last week, CDOT asked the City to perform an additional task; that being to find six (6) parking spaces for the Metro-North employees involved in the switching operations for the Danbury Branch Line. Within 24 hours of the call to us we responded by making arrangements for these parking spaces. As you can see, this piece of land is very important to the City of Norwalk. It will give us all of the land necessary to complete the State Heritage Park, which is an important amenity for our overall Reed Putnam project. It also will allow our private developer, Spinnaker Companies, to complete its overall plan to preserve the historic Lock Building, to build a public parking garage and to provide a waterfront housing and retail complex adjacent to the Maritime Aquarium.

The overall economic benefits of the entire Reed Putnam project are significant. It will provide nearly 3,500 new jobs to our region and State, increase the tax base in Norwalk significantly and provide new sources of corporate income tax to the State of Connecticut. It will also aid in expanding Connecticut's tourism economy by providing much needed parking to the growing Maritime Aquarium and the SONO Historic District.

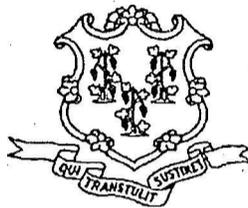
The City of Norwalk respectfully requests your approval of House Bill No. 5892. Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak to you this afternoon on this important subject and thank you for your consideration of this Bill.

000778

REPRESENTATIVE LENNY T. WINKLER
FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

151 PAMELA AVENUE
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06340
TELEPHONES
HOME: (860) 446-0097

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
IN STATE TOLL FREE: 1-800-8-2-1423



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

ASSISTANT HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

14

TESTIMONY BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE LENNY T. WINKLER IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 5892 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND, PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2000.

Good morning Senator Bozek, Senator Kissel, Representative Knopp, Representative San Angelo and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. For the record, I am State Representative Lenny Winkler from the 41st District in Groton, and I appear before the Committee today to speak in favor of H.B. 5892, An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land.

Specifically, I would urge the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for Section 9 of the bill, the conveyance of the Noank Aquaculture-Marine Laboratory and property, to the Town of Groton.

This legislation is another step forward in an ongoing effort to enhance the aquaculture and marine industries in Connecticut. Following this conveyance, the Town of Groton will make the laboratory available to the Groton Shellfishing Commission for use as a hatchery. This facility will be used to produce oysters, scallops and clams for the shellfishing industry.

As I said, this is a continuing effort. The State Bond Commission has already allocated \$250,000 to make necessary repairs to the hatchery building. The conveyance of the property will allow this work to move forward.

Aquaculture is an important part of the Connecticut economy. As I am sure Representative Knopp knows, the Norwalk area is one of this country's leading producers of high quality oysters. Southeastern Connecticut, too, has the potential to assume a leading role in the shellfishing industry. The further development of the Groton hatchery will allow the industry to grow in our region, benefiting the economy of our region and our state.

Again, I would urge your Joint Favorable Report for H.B. 5892. Thank you.

000779

10

Maritime Education Network, Inc.
142 Ferry Road @ Between the Bridges Marina
Old Saybrook, CT 06498

March 13, 2000

State of Connecticut General Assembly
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Room 2200
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: Raised Bill No. 5892 / LCO No. 2641

An Act Concerning The Conveyance of State Land located at 203 Ferry Road, Old Saybrook

Dear Committee Members:

A person could easily pass the small slip of land with shabby buildings located at 203 Ferry Road in Old Saybrook and be totally unimpressed. We at Maritime Education Network however, value its location across from the DEP Boat Launch approximately thirty minutes by boat to the mouth of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound, and visualize an active community minded maritime facility.

Long Island Sound is one of New England's largest and most important natural resources. Designated as an "Estuary of National Significance", it ranks among the most important estuaries in the United States. The Connecticut River runs for more than 400 miles from Canada to Long Island Sound. From pre-Colonial times, it has provided sustenance for human habitations along its banks, and remains a lifeline for wildlife of all descriptions. Careful observation of the River and the Sound is a path to understanding our culture and our lives.

Maritime Education Network, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization comprised of a group of dedicated people including teachers, boat builders, U.S. Coast Guard certified Captains, marine biologists and other parties interested in environmental and marine education. Our mission is to collaborate with other institutions to offer quality educational programs to increase public awareness of the history, beauty and value of Long Island Sound and its watershed. Marine education is often seen to offer a powerful motivating influence when integrated with mathematics and science disciplines, as well as through learning across the curriculum. Our teachers hold current CT certifications which range from preschool through adult representing the fields of science, English, history, social studies, technology, psychology and special education.

Our classroom and office space is currently housed in a waterfront site at Between the Bridges Marina in Old Saybrook. While we have been fortunate and are appreciative for this generous

donation of space by the marina, this site is only temporary, as it is slated for demolition or total rehab.

With a master's degree in education in addition to multiple current certifications in regular and special education, I have been involved with CT's Department of Education Inter-district Grant Department in Hartford for three years through the development, coordination and administration of a very successful on and off water program serving middle school children from Hartford, Norwich, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Westbrook and Old Saybrook. Following a site inspection of the "Sound Connections" program by the State Department of Education review team, a letter received commended us as receiving "one of the highest ratings of our over two hundred grant proposals ... exceptional...we consider this one of our model programs". Within a marine/maritime focused course of study, opportunities are provided for "Sound Connection" students to stimulate and sustain interest in science, math, history and marine related careers. The integrated curricula also includes English, process writing and art. Inquiry oriented activities emphasize critical thinking skills and the Scientific Method. Modules are designed to promote cooperative, exploratory learning with team activities and group discussions. The gifts of diversity and uniqueness are celebrated -- by identifying each others strengths, students build cohesive teams and learn that communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation are vital links to success and harmony. Students are left with an increased appreciation of other cultures as well as the marine environment, and the knowledge and desire to help improve and preserve the values of each.

The eight week summer program during July and August is spent primarily on water aboard both power and sailing vessels. Groups participate in Biology, Seamanship, Navigation and Safety, Maritime History and Shipboard Life. Students are immersed in the piloting of the vessels. They learn to plot positions, read charts, and steer the vessel using a compass. They learn about water safety, to determine depth of the water using lead lines, sail handling and knot tying. They practice distance, speed, time calculations, and record weather information including temperature, cloud cover, sea state, wind speed and direction. Ecosystem study, shell and fin-fishing, water quality testing, seine netting and animal identification and the overall study of oceanology are included. This data is brought back with other to the classroom for incorporation in our Data Center used to create graphs and charts. Students also enjoy learning maritime superstitions, nautical lore, and local history. Further aquaculture and coastal studies continue in selected schools during the school year.

Another inter-district program that I am active in is the W.A.T.E.R. (Working With Aquariums To Explore Regions) program through The Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center in New Haven. This program surrounds middle school students in hands-on science and research activities involving exploratory learning and the scientific method using fresh and salt water aquariums. These grants provide for enhanced and extended learning to districts who would normally be unable, through prohibitive costs or limited resources to furnish such unique opportunities. Each program must provide for multicultural exchanges between urban and suburban students and teachers, as well as to meet educational enhancement goals. In short, I am currently involved in providing marine programming to close to one thousand

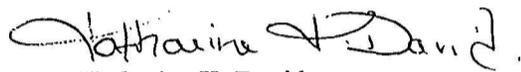
000781

students from participating schools from Ansonia to Norwich to Hartford - a solid base for the new center.

The procurement of the property in question would provide a permanent location where we could continue our current programs and expand our services to provide a home base for supervised occupational experiences within the marine trades for high school students, community boat building, and public education through our offerings coupled with those of the United States Coast Guard. Other schools, organizations and corporations have expressed interest in "coming on board". Help us to build an active, educational, community and family oriented maritime facility by providing us with this needed space. We'll do our best.

Thank you. Attached, please find letters of support.

Sincerely,



Katharine K. David
Director

000782



S T A T E OF C O N N E C T I C U T
D E P A R T M E N T OF E D U C A T I O N



Mr. Jim Lewis
Rights of Way Administrator
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, Ct 06131-7546

August 30, 1999

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I learned of the property at 203 Ferry Road, Old Saybrook becoming available this past Spring. David Labossiere from the Property Management Division contacted me to ask if I could recommend an educational organization that would be able to use this property. I understand that the Department of Transportation would like to see the site continued to be used for educational purposes.

The educational program, Sound Connections, operated by the Maritime Education Network Inc., that is funded by the State Department of Education, is one of the highest rated of our over 200 grant proposals. Our staff conducted a site review of the program in July 1999. Our funded programs must meet both educational enhancement and diversity goals. The interactions observed that developed among students from Hartford and the shoreline communities were exceptional. The education program in the classroom, on the water and along the riverbanks actively engaged the students in wonderful learning experiences. We consider this one of our model programs.

Educational links to the Integrated Day Charter School, the Sound School, CT River Museum and other local organizations as well as the location on the river have created a unique learning environment. We would highly recommend the Maritime Education Network, Inc. be conveyed this property in Old Saybrook.

The Maritime Education Network's programs are currently housed in temporary facilities at the Between the Bridges Marina in Old Saybrook. Because the facilities are slated for demolition, we are concerned that the grant budget will be severely impacted if the Maritime Education Network is forced to rent space elsewhere. Continuation and expansion of interdistrict programs in this region is very important.

If you have additional questions or concerns feel free to contact me at 566-6623.

Sincerely,

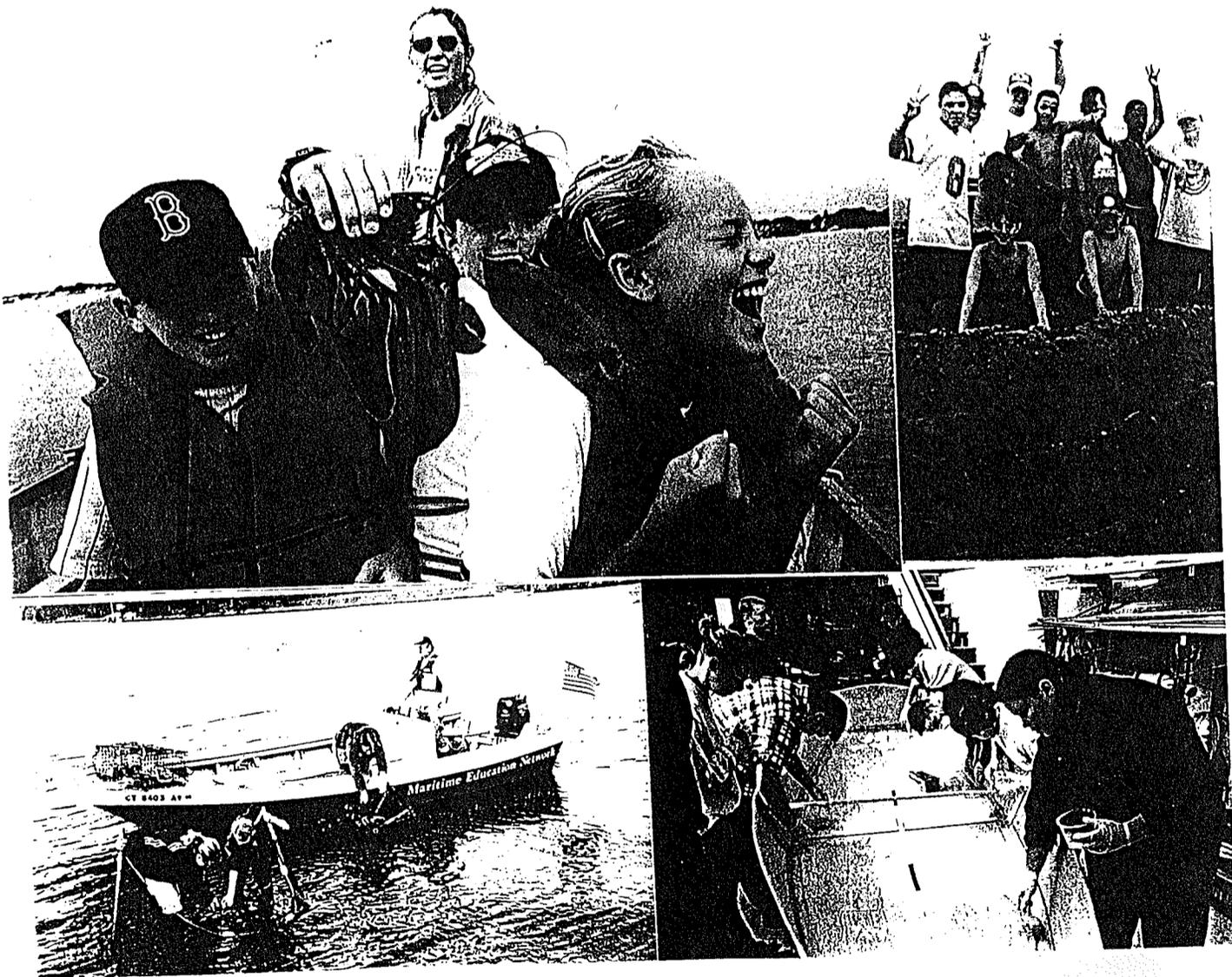
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Magnotta".

William Magnotta
Program Manager, Magnet and Interdistrict Programs

Cc: Katharine David

000783

I love the program and I liked everything we did. I will love to come back in the fall. The most thing I like meeting new friend all though we are different from the out side we are the same in the inside and everybody can do anything if they try.



000784

WESTBROOK BD ED

ID:860-399-8817

AUG 24 '99 12:36 No. 011 P. 01



WESTBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

105 GOODSPEED DRIVE • WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT 06498-0876
Tel: (860) 399-6432 • Fax: (860) 399-8817

JOHN W. SULLIVAN, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 24, 1999

Mr. David Labossiere, Property Management Division Chief
Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P. O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Labossiere:

It has been brought to my attention that the property located at 203 Ferry Road in Old Saybrook, which currently houses the River School, will soon be vacated. It has also been brought to my attention that ownership of this property may possibly be transferred to the Maritime Education Network, Inc. This letter is written to express my endorsement of that action.

Kathy David has done a marvelous job of planning and providing inter-district programs to students from our area for some time. Through her efforts this summer alone, approximately thirty students from Westbrook have had the opportunity to learn and grow with students from city schools in an exciting aquatic environment. I applaud Ms. David for her efforts and I encourage you to give her every consideration possible.

I thank you, in advance, for your consideration of my support for the Maritime Education Network in its quest to find a permanent facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Sullivan".

John W. Sullivan, Ed.D.

Copy: Representative Claire Sauer
47 Mitchell Hill Road
Lyme, CT 06371

000785

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4



CHESTER - DEEP RIVER - ESS

JOHN H. GILLESPIE
Superintendent

THOMAS W. ENGLI
Director
of Pupil Services

STEPHEN B. SPIRE
Business Manager

September 13, 1999

David Labossiere
Property Management Division Chief
Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that the property at 203 Ferry Road in Old Saybrook has become available and that the Maritime Education Network, Inc. is interested in having the property conveyed to it. I would appreciate it very much if the property were so conveyed. We have had a very fruitful relationship with Maritime Education and its Director, Katherine David over the last several years and would like to have it continue. Our students have benefitted greatly from our collaboration with Sound Connections (the educational program run by Maritime Education). The organization has taken advantage of the unique resources of the region, using them to create a multi-disciplinary program that has helped us to meet our educational goals.

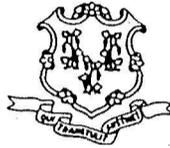
If you have any questions or need further information, please get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

John H. Gillespie
Superintendent of Schools

JHG/bc
cc: Rep. Claire Sauer
Katherine David ✓

000786



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE SAUER
THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

47 MITCHELL HILL ROAD
LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371
TELEPHONES
HOME: (860) 434-2936
CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267
(860) 240-8585

Mr. Jim Lewis
Rights of Way Administrator
Department of Transportation
P O Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

VICE-CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Following up conversations I have had with David Labossiere, I am enclosing correspondence from Katherine David regarding her request to relocate Maritime Education Network, Inc. to, and then to have ownership of, property located at 203 Ferry Road in Old Saybrook.

Both Senator Melodie Peters and I have followed the progress of Maritime Education Network, and Katherine David's role in that progress. We believe she is doing an excellent job on a very worthwhile project and we both support the request to have Maritime use the property without charge until ownership can be transferred. We realize that ownership cannot be transferred until legislation is passed making the transfer possible. We will be happy to sponsor such legislation in the next session.

If there is any further information I can provide, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Claire Sauer

Cc: David Labossiere
Senator Melodie Peters
Katherine David

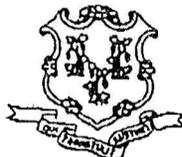
email: Claire.Sauer@po.state.ct.us

09/10/99 14:38 203 240 0023

LEG COMMITTEE 3F

002/002

0-78.



State of Connecticut

SENATE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR EILEEN M. DAILY
THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

103 COLD SPRING DRIVE
WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT 06498
CAPITOL: (860) 240-0447
DISTRICT: (860) 399-7342
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1420
EMAIL: Daily@senatedems.state.ct.us

ASSISTANT PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

CHAIR-ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIR-FINANCE, REVENUE, AND BONDING

MEMBER:
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PROGRAM, REVIEW, AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

September 9, 1999

Mr. Jim Lewis
Rights of Way Administrator
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am writing to add to the legislative support that has been given to the Maritime Education Network.

Legislation will be introduced in the next session of the Connecticut General Assembly to convey the parcel of 203 Ferry Road to the Maritime Education Network.

In the meantime, I wholeheartedly support their use of the property without charge. This will be of great benefit to the taxpayers of the state while providing an opportunity to observe what promises to be a very exciting and meaningful program.

I urge you to allow full use of the property to the Maritime Education Network.

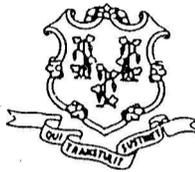
Thank you for your consideration for this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen M. Daily".

Eileen M. Daily
State Senator, 33rd District

000788



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR MELODIE PETERS
TWENTIETH DISTRICT

10 TOTOKET ROAD
QUAKER HILL, CONNECTICUT 06375
TELEPHONES
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8600
HOME: (860) 443-8857
WATTS: 1-800-842-1420 (IN STATE)
FAX: (860) 240-0208

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRMAN
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

VICE-CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

August 3, 1999

Mr. Jim Lewis
Rights of Way Administrator
Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am writing to add my support to that of Representative Claire Sauer for the request of Ms. Katherine David to relocate Maritime Education Network, Inc. to the property located at 203 Ferry Road, Old Saybrook. I would also like to add my voice to that of Rep. Sauer's in expressing my support for a conveyance of that parcel to the Network at the earliest possible time.

I stand with Rep. Sauer in expressing our continued support for the Maritime Education Network, as we believe the project to be worthwhile.

Representative Sauer and I intend to pursue a conveyance bill for this property in the coming session of the General Assembly.

Should you need additional information regarding this project, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Senator Melodie Peters

MP:lrv

Cc: K. David; Rep. Sauer



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



10

STATEMENT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
REGARDING RAISED HOUSE BILL NO. 5892
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN
PARCELS OF STATE LAND
BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MARCH 13, 2000

765 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
An Equal Opportunity Employer
e-mail: ctdeptag@po.state.ct.us

000790

The Department of Agriculture is here today to support Section 9 of Raised House Bill 5892, "An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land".

Favorable action on Section 9 of RHB 5892 could facilitate the potential private-public partnership between the Town of Groton and the aquaculture industry at the Noank site.

Because of Connecticut's strong real estate market, extreme pressures by marinas, condominiums, and other projects have squeezed our shellfishermen away from the waterfronts.

The Department of Agriculture is aware of private interest at the Noank site; for example, a group of local fishermen feeling the real estate pinch are joining together to form a fishermen's cooperative that could potentially lease the site from the Town of Groton.

Having attended a Groton Town Council meeting this past January, it was clear that the Town has an interest to protect and promote the aquaculture industry that is so much a part of its history.

For further information, please contact:

Melanie J. Attwater
Legislative Liaison
(860) 713-2509



TOWN OF STRATFORD

Mark S. Barnhart
Town Manager

2725 MAIN STREET
CONNECTICUT 06615

203-385-4001

March 13, 2000

Committee on Government Administration and Elections
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, 06106

Re: HB 5892

Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of certain provisions of HB 5892, "AAC The Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land," specifically those pertaining to the Shakespeare Theater and the Stratford Army Engine Plant (SAEP).

I regret that a prior commitment will prevent my attendance at today's committee meeting. I would respectfully request that my prepared written remarks be entered into the record in support of this legislation.

I am certain that the Committee is well aware of the history concerning the Shakespeare Theater in Stratford, from its heyday as a cultural landmark and top tourist attraction draw to its decline, forced bankruptcy and virtual abandonment under State stewardship. I will not belabor the point here, but suffice it to say that after many long years of struggle, we are now poised to witness the Theater's impending rebirth. Both the State of Connecticut and the Town of Stratford have committed funds to assist in this effort. The Town of Stratford, for example, funded a \$75,000 market analysis and feasibility study to satisfy one of the conditions of the purchase and sales agreement between the State and Stratford Festival Theater, Inc. (SFT). More recently, the Town Council pledged \$500,000 to make parking and other



"COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT SINCE 1921"

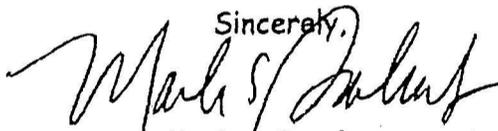
site improvements to the property in accordance with SFT's operations and business plan. It never made much sense to me that, on the one hand, the State would provide funding to assist SFT and the Town in realizing their shared vision of a resurgent Shakespeare Theater, while on the other hand, require SFT to expend precious resources in order to purchase, and acquire the property from the State. This proposed legislation seems to address this issue, and I would request the Committee's support in advancing this vital project.

I turn now to another landmark in Stratford: the Stratford Army Engine Plant (SAEP).

The Stratford Army Engine Plant is a government-owned installation comprised of some 76 acres of upland and an additional 48 acres of riparian rights situated at the confluence of the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound. The site is comprised of some 54 buildings, totaling more than 1.7 million square feet of space. Once home to AlliedSignal Aerospace, which manufactured gas turbine engines for the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank as well as other types of aircraft, marine and commercial engine products, the SAEP was closed during the 1995 round of federal base closure actions. Since that decision, the Town of Stratford has been actively working with federal and state officials to acquire and redevelop the property to create jobs and generate tax revenues to replace those that were lost. During this process, we discovered a problem with the title concerning a portion of the site now referred to as the "public trust" lands. These public trust lands refer to portions of the SAEP property waterward of the high tide mark that were previously filled by the federal government, and to which the State of Connecticut has asserted a possible claim to title. Unfortunately, this claim has the effect of clouding title to the property, delaying the conveyance of the SAEP to the Town of Stratford, and jeopardizing our redevelopment plans. I am requesting the Committee's support of this legislation, whereby the State would waive any claim to title regarding this property.

Thank you again for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Barnhart

000793



GAFFNEY, BENNETT AND ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLITICAL CONSULTING

3

Committee on Government Administration and Elections
Please Support Raised Bill No. 5892

Re: STRATF RD C NNECTICUT SHAKE A IVA HEA ER

Fred C. Frassinelli, Jr., Chairman of the Board
David Griffiths, President & CEO

Monday, March 13, 2000

Good morning Representative Knopp, Senator Bozek and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am David Griffiths and I am here with Fred Frassinelli on behalf of the Stratford Festival Theater to testify in support of Raised Bill 5892 - An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land.

As officers of the not-for-profit Stratford Festival Theater, we are pleased to report to you that with the generous support provided by the State of Connecticut and the Town of Stratford, the Stratford Festival Theater is on track for the opening season this spring, beginning on or about June 15 and continuing through September. Know that we are grateful for your having helped make possible a season of three mainstage productions as a 'demonstration,' as it were, of the types of works we will produce annually as our capabilities expand over time, and as our philanthropic base and ticket buying public grow.

This first season, and we apologize that the exact titles of plays and actors cannot be announced to you at this time prior to the completion of contract negotiations with actors, will include at minimum one Shakespeare play, one classic American comedy, and one musical. Supplementing these offerings will be various Monday night single events and concert programming, readings and educational and outreach opportunities.

To start-up a small theater company and grow it over time is difficult. To re-launch a theater the size of the Stratford project with a still extant national reputation in a 1500 seat theater is, indeed, an even greater challenge -- a challenge that can, and is being met. Know that your financial support and that of the Town of Stratford is most important and acknowledged as key to building this festival into the significant and successful entertainment facility, tourist destination and educational facility we believe it can become. A place that all the citizens of Connecticut can be proud to call their own.

1. We have engaged well qualified and experienced casting directors to help us bring the very best quality actors to the Stratford stage. Costume and scenic designs are well underway. And, today, as we are talking with you, the old mildew damaged seats and carpets are being taken out as the main theater is being prepared for new seats and carpeting that will be installed prior to our mid-June opening. An extremely well qualified and experienced theater general management firm has joined our team. Their value, in addition to management expertise, is their capability of attracting

One Liberty Square ♦ New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 229-0301 ♦ Fax: (860) 225-4627

added enhancement dollars to individual productions. This supports our goal of transferring shows initially produced in Stratford to national tours and/or Broadway. And, thereby, as the theater's reputation and revenue build will make Connecticut based product available to the widest possible audiences.

2. As a result of the State of Connecticut's initial grant of Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$.5 million), the Stratford Festival Theater now has its own 'White House' administrative facility which we invite each of you to visit at any time. Extensive renovation and rehabilitation of an historic Stratford mansion, provides us with a landmark facility capable of supporting the production operations and the continued development of education and outreach programs so important to the development of an appreciation of the arts by young people and their families, our community, and all the residents of this state.
3. Electrical and HVAC upgrades, and installation of the requisite electronics needed to support customer service, accounting and cost control systems are complete. When the 'White House' is fully operational within the next few weeks, we will also have a facility capable of supporting not just our own operations, but those of important community based volunteer groups related to the ongoing success of our operations. Organizations including the Stratford Sister Cities, the Friend of Will, and the Shakespeare Guild have been invited to consider using our public rooms to hold meetings and small functions that in turn support overall funding objectives and goals.
4. Theater improvements now completed include renovation and upgrading of dressing rooms, costume shop, backstage equipment, fire control and security systems. The proceeds of the State of Connecticut guaranteed line of credit of One Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars for a period of three years has been financed through Peoples Bank. This revolving credit line will help pay for continuing upgrades of waterproofing, electrical and HVAC so important in making the Stratford Festival Theater into a facility that is operational, in the long term, over eight to ten months of the year.
5. The Town of Stratford has reaffirmed a budget allocation of five Hundred Thousand dollars of in-kind services to support infrastructure including additional outdoor lighting, re-grading and paving of parking areas and walkways, landscaping, ground maintenance and trash removal. A full definition of how these funds will be used is under discussion.

Most important to the ongoing success and development of Stratford Festival Theater as a tourist destination is the construction and operation of one or two smaller theaters where more intimate works can be performed. This has always been part of our overall phased development plan. We need housing for actors and staff, and the first class country inns and restaurants that can support visitors for more than a one-day stay.

Coupled with development of our physical plant is the need to expand our Board of Directors, adding those whose contacts as well as personal resources are capable of making a leadership statement to the communities from which we raise charitable dollars and do business. It is important to us that you know we consider this arts institution a business with the same accountability and fiscal responsibilities as any other well run business.

000795

An evaluation of private placement bond financing is underway, other financing and mortgage options are also being studied to determine the best way of providing capital to build out the full project, over time and in manageable phases. We specifically request that you reconsider two items that survive closing. These items reflect directly on our ability to obtain long term financing.

The first is the requirement that we produce one Shakespeare play per season for twenty years from the date of conveyance. (Please see lines 328-330) In actual fact we plan to produce one or more of Shakespeare's plays annually.

The second is the reversionary clause deeding the property to the Town of Stratford in case of default. (Please see lines 360-361) This, as with the item previously set forth is a requirement that can also affect our ability to secure long term financing.

We wish to make clear that our request for review of these items is strictly based on their possible limitation on our ability to obtain financing and in no way affect the spirit of why these requirements were originally and are currently included.

We are not out here just dreaming impossible dreams, dancing around the maypole and waiting for you to provide all the dollars to make these dreams happen. Sound business procedures and outstanding artistic product will attract corporate gifts, sponsorship, foundation and philanthropic giving by individuals that, coupled with your support, are necessary for Stratford Festival Theater's success. A sponsorship campaign, seat endowment campaign, builders' fund, annual membership campaign and other programs to encourage and secure charitable gifts are being designed and implemented along with marketing initiatives that can build the size audience we need to succeed.

Mr. Frassinelli and I thank you for your continuing interest and generosity in support of this most worthwhile endeavor. Thank you.