

PA10-044

SB025

Finance	421-423, 443-448, 472-474, 517-519, 549-551, 590-593, 598-600, 610-638	54
House	3040-3098	59
Senate	2178-2194, 2304-2305	19
		132

S - 604

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL. 53
PART 7
1920 - 2252**

mhr
SENATE

108
April 30, 2010

senior center in the State of Connecticut is the Easton Senior Center, Mr. President. They were up here today to win an award from the Department of Economic and Community Development. And our senior center in Easton lives and breathes because of the tremendous hard work and tireless dedication of Val Buckley. So if we could give Derek and Val Buckley a warm welcome, thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, for an additional marking for the next bill to be taken up after the -- the one previously marked, that would be -- it's on Calendar page 9, Calendar 423, Senate Bill Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to the Calendar, Calendar page 10, the matter marked second order of the day, Calendar Number 432, File Number 606, substitute for Senate

mhr
SENATE

109
April 30, 2010

Bill 25, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES, favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

SENATOR DAILY:

"I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and seek passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval adoption of the bill, ma'am, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR DAILY:

Yes, I would. Thank you --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

-- Mr. President.

This bill cancels \$422 million in previously

mhr
SENATE

110
April 30, 2010

bonded authorizations. It also authorizes 40 million in clean water funds and 7 and a half million for transportation funds.

To discuss this matter further, I would like to yield to Senator DeFronzo. But before I do, I want everybody in the Senate to know how hard Senator DeFronzo has worked on this bill. Senator DeFronzo is the Co-Chairman of the Bonding Subcommittee and has put in a number, a great number of hours working with his Co-Chair, Representative Leone. And I know I'm grateful and I know we all should be.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo, do you accept a yield, sir?

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Yes, Mr. President, I do.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you.

Thank you, Senator Daily. And before -- before I do describe the bill, though, I would -- would like to call the -- the amendment which will be -- actually become the bill.

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of

mhr
SENATE

111
April 30, 2010

LCO 4717. I would ask that the amendment be called and I be given permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 4717, which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule A is offered by Senator Daily of the 33rd District and Senator DeFronzo of the 6th District, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President I move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you.

Mr. President, this -- this bill is the culmination of a lot of -- a lot of work. It is a significant legislative achievement, and I think it reflects very well on the leadership of the Finance Committee, Representative Staples, Senator Daily, my Co-Chair in the House, Representative Leone, the

mhr
SENATE

112
April 30, 2010

Ranking Members, Representative Floren, Senator Guglielmo, Senator Roraback. This was a good example of bipartisanship, not only in the -- in the process employed in reviewing the tens of millions of dollars of authorizations in our Bond Act, but also in the unanimous vote that this bill achieved when it came through the Finance Committee, a very unusual circumstance for a bill with such far-reaching impact.

This bill will move the state below the 90 percent bonding cap, will afford the administration, the legislative leadership the opportunity to prioritize the projects for which our limited bonding capacity could be used, as Senator Daily indicated, \$422 million in net reductions in this bill in -- of cancellations. That represents 22 percent of all our authorized and unallocated allocations, which is a significant number. In fact, no one in the building can remember the last time we've cancelled that much in authorizations.

And this is significant because we are struggling with a revenue situation which drives our bonding cap down, drives our ability to bond down our capital projects. And I think Senator McKinney alluded -- alluded to the frustrations sometimes we have when we

mhr
SENATE

113
April 30, 2010

-- we try to draw the line on -- on these projects. And we're all compelled to advocate for projects in our district, and we shouldn't apologize for that. But over time, these projects do accumulate and we build and build our base to the point where when our revenues do decline, we're in a situation where we have to make significant adjustments in order to get back a proper discipline. And that's what this bill does. It -- it establishes a very strong discipline with respect to bond authorizations.

There are 255 individual cancellations or reductions in this act... The bill exceeds the Governor's proposed cancellations by \$170 million and it creates \$180 million in new bonding capacity, based on our January revenue estimates. So, Mr. President, this is a -- a significant bill.

As I said, I want to thank all the members of the Legislature. You know, we went out and asked all the members of the Legislature to give us recommendations for cancellations, and this is not an easy thing for people to do. Many members of this Chamber and in the House have fought for authorizations in the Bond Act but almost everybody came forward this year and sacrificed something because we all recognize the

mhr
SENATE

114
April 30, 2010

difficult financial situation we're in. So to all the members on both sides of the aisles, I want to thank them for their cooperation. I want to thank the administration. The Governor did propose a significant number of cancellations in her February budget address, but even at that point we needed to do more because of the declining revenues in -- in the state. So to all involved, I want to say thank you, and I particularly want to thank Senator Daily for her leadership on this -- on this bill.

And I -- I seek support of the circle for the amendment before us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate A?

Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to congratulate the Co-Chair of the General Bonding Subcommittee. I know they did a hard -- lot of hard work on it. There's, as the Chairman said, there were 255 cancellations. It's probably the first time we moved in that direction since I've been

mhr
SENATE

115
April 30, 2010

here, I think, and -- and I think it would help us with the bonding community that -- that they know that we're willing to make tough choices and move in the -- in the right direction. So I want to thank the Chairman for his work.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on Senate Amendment A?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I, too, want to salute Senator -- Mr.

President -- excuse me.

THE CHAIR:

It's quite all right, sir.

SENATOR RORABACK:

I, too, would like to salute Senator DeFronzo for once again demonstrating that it is possible with the right chemistry -- and Senator Guglielmo as well -- to work across the aisle in pursuit of a goal which we all recognize as necessary although difficult to achieve. And in these times when the needs of our state are growing, it's particularly difficult to scale back and reign in our hopes to what we could realistically expect to afford.

mhr
SENATE

116
April 30, 2010

Mr. President, because of Senator DeFronzo's hard work and Senator Guglielmo's hard work and the works of the -- the hard work of the Bonding Subcommittee, we're \$400 billion less exposed to borrowing. My hope is that the consensus that's overtaking the Chamber in connection with this bill, that we'll have a memory long enough to not reverse the progress that we've made today.

And I'm not -- I'm just cautioning that let's not forget what we're saying now as we move forward. Let's not believe that the reduction of 400 million in bonding authorization gives us license tomorrow or the next day to authorize 20 million here or 40 million there, because the movement that we've made is substantial. It's significant and it's important, but there's more to do and I'm confident that the spirit that pervades this bill, if we can keep that spirit alive, it will be a good thing for the State of Connecticut.

So I urge support of the bill and thank the Chamber for its indulgence.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Roraback.

mhr
SENATE

117
April 30, 2010

Will you remark further on Senate A? Will you remark further?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, a couple of questions to the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I just received a phone call from a constituent from my district in regards to Heritage Village and a water project that was going on between Heritage Village and Southbury Training School, and I'm wondering if you're familiar with this particular project. I know it might be difficult with the size of the bill, but their -- their question was about \$2 million in funding being reduced in this particular bill from that particular project. Can you speak to that at all, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

mhr
SENATE

118
April 30, 2010

Through you, Mr. President, I -- I probably would need a little more specificity about the project and what agency is involved. I would be glad to, if you -- if you can give me the agency under which the authorization was -- was made. I -- I have a spreadsheet here. I'd be glad to ask for a moment and -- and check it for you. Otherwise, I'll be glad to talk to you after -- after the session, but --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Through you, Mr. President, I believe Southbury Training School would be DDS, Department of Developmental Services. Is -- is there a way to break it down from there? Is that possibility, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

I, again, Mr. President, I -- I could check that. Is it a -- through you, Mr. President, I -- and if I may inquire as to the -- the type of project. Is it a -- is it an environmental project or a -- no. If, well, if I might -- and, Mr. President, if I might

mhr
SENATE

119
April 30, 2010

have just two minutes, I'll just take a quick --

THE CHAIR:

Sure.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

-- look at my -- if -- is that --

THE CHAIR:

The Senate --

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

If I could stand --

THE CHAIR:

-- will stand at ease.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. --

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

I think what -- Mr. President, I still -- I still think we're trying to identify the -- you got that in there? Through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I -- I thank Senator DeFronzo for his answers. I apologize for holding up the -- the Chamber for a few minutes. I will talk to

mhr
SENATE .

120
April 30, 2010

you, I guess, after this and we can figure this all out. But I do see that there is \$40 million in the bill for the Clean Water Fund, so I would imagine maybe it'll fall under there and we'll be covered. So I just wanted to ask that question. But I appreciate it and -- and we'll follow up with you after the discussions.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

The -- if I might just -- just remark --

SENATOR COLEMAN IN THE CHAIR

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

-- on that?

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Yeah, we -- there is \$35 million in authorizations for clean water programs in this -- in this bill, and as of July 1st, another \$40 million is -- is authorized. So if the project is in line, it --

mhr
SENATE

121
April 30, 2010

it shouldn't be -- shouldn't be hurt by anything in
this bill.

So -- but I will -- we -- we do need to make sure
we're talking about the same thing here; okay,
Senator? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator DeFronzo for his answers. I
appreciate that. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further? Would you care to
remark further?

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Mr. President, if no further questions or
remarks, I ask that this matter be placed on the
consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection to place this item on the
consent calendar? Ah, there is an amendment; right?

Did --

mhr
SENATE

122
April 30, 2010

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

I --

THE CHAIR:

Did you propose an --

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

-- amendment, Senator?

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

I'm sorry. We're vote -- we're speaking on the amendment. I'm sorry, Mr. President. That's correct; sorry.

THE CHAIR:

So are there any further remarks on the amendment? Any further remarks on the amendment? If not, the Chair will try your minds regarding the amendment. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed, say nay.

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

mhr
SENATE

123
April 30, 2010

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SENATOR DeFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If there's no further comment, I would now ask that the matter be placed on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise not to oppose the matter from being placed on a consent but to comment on the bill that is now before us.

Mr. President, I think by reducing the amount of bonding is a great thing, and this is significant, given the facts that our bonding has reached limits of historical proportions. But now that we've taken the step or we've tightened the belt and we've cut some bonding that obviously we didn't need, it's time to make sure that we don't in a matter of a few days take that bonding and pledge it to some bill or some item

mhr
SENATE

124
April 30, 2010

or some project. The point of this is to help us reduce our debt, and this is a big step. And we should look at this more often, and we should continue to reduce our debt. But I hope we're just not doing this as a place-keeper for something yet unknown that may be out in the hallways that's going to appear and suck up the very bonding which we just got rid of.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Do you care to remark further? Do you care to remark further? If not, there was a motion that the bill as amended be placed on the consent calendar. Is there objection? Is there objection? Seeing none, this bill as amended may be placed on our consent calendar; so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to Calendar page 9, the matter marked the third order of the day, Calendar Number 423, File Number 592, substitute for Senate Bill 1, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION AND CREATION OF JOBS IN CONNECTICUT, a favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding. The Clerk is in

S - 605

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL. 53
PART 8
2253 - 2596**

mhr
SENATE

234
April 30, 2010

been ordered in the Senate on the consent calendar.
Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

Mr. President, there is one item on today's
Consent Calendar Number 1; it's Calendar page 10,
Calendar Number 432, substitute for Senate Bill 25.

Mr. President, that is the only matter on the
consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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 on the
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to
the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senators, please check the board to make certain
that your vote is properly recorded. If all Senators
have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk
may take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number
1:

Total Number voting 35

mhr
SENATE

235
April 30, 2010

Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 is passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would call Calendar page 14, Calendar 470, House Bill 5408.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 14, Calendar Number 470, File Number 496, substitute for House Bill 5408, AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS, favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

H – 1082

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL.53
PART 10
2967 – 3317**

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

74
May 1, 2010

THE CLERK:

On page 31, Calendar 472, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 25, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES, favorable report of the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You have the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the chamber is acceptance and passage of this bill in concurrence with the Senate.

Please proceed, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I make general comments

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

75
May 1, 2010

about the bill, we have a strike-all amendment that I would like to offer, and I think it will be more appropriate to talk about that. So, at this time, I would ask the Clerk please to call LCO Number 4717, and I'd ask that I be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 4717 previously designated Senate "A"?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4717 Senate "A" offered by Senators Daily, DeFronzo and Representatives Staples and Leone.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Staples has sought the leave of the chamber to summarize, and we will allow him to do that as soon as the amendment is passed down.

So for the time being the House will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the House please come back to order for Representative Cam Staples, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

76
May 1, 2010

Mr. Speaker, the amendment before us, which becomes the bill, represents a very substantial piece of work by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and, in particular, the Bonding Subcommittee. And I want to just mention a few comments about the circumstances we find ourselves in with bonding and then I would like to yield to the subcommittee chair, Representative Leone, to go through the amendment in greater detail.

But, as we all know, we've had a very significant drop off in revenues over the last year and a half, and our bonding ceiling is directly tied to our revenues. So we were stu -- we were in a circumstance where we several hundred million dollars above where we're permitted to be with our state borrowing when we began the session. Representative Leone, Senator DeFronzo and others began an exhaustive process of reaching out to members of both chambers, agencies, and evaluating with municipalities what cancellations we could do to bring the bonding under the debt ceiling and to create the right environment for us to do an addi -- some additional bonding projects while also having the bond rating agencies reflect well on

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

77
May 1, 2010

Connecticut's standing with respect to our indebtedness.

And I just want to commend them. I want to commend the Bonding Subcommittee, and I want to comment all of my colleagues who agreed to a significant number of cancellations.

This is really a difficult task. We cancelled about \$480 million of bond authorizations and that is an overwhelming number and I think brings us substantially below the debt ceiling. And, in fact, with our adjust revenue estimates just recently adopted, we still stand with the adoption of this bill and a few other bonding bills to come later, at about 85 percent of our statutory limit, which is a very good place to be when we're trying to authorize some bonding but also have our bonds rated highly by the rating agencies.

So, Mr. Speaker, the bill before us includes a number of cancellations of projects, a number of reductions in programs and pots of funds but does so in a way that reflects -- continues to reflect our priorities and preserve those things that make a difference to this state. For example, clean water and some other areas which -- which Representative

Leone will get into in greater detail -- are well preserved. The Urban Acts grants are well preserved. The STEEP grants are well preserved. Any real required bonding for agencies and for programs that are necess -- necessities for the next couple of years are preserved in this bill but at the same time we're making a very responsible and conservative approach to our indebtedness, which I want -- again, I want to commend all of those who participated in it.

This bill will bring us substantially down to where we need to be. And it, yet, at the same time authorizes some additional bonding projects for those areas of the state that such great need.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to my colleague or ask perhaps that you recognize my colleague, Representative Leone, who will describe the amendment in greater detail.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone of the 148th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

79
May 1, 2010

I rise today in support of this strike-all, this bill that we're doing here today. And I also want to thank a few members that were critical in crafting this landmark -- landmark bill that we've worked on for so long. And, first and foremost, I do want to thank my chairs of the committee and ranking members as well. Repre -- Representative Staples has been keenly involved, making sure that we stayed on track in terms of what our task was to be, along with Senator Daily, and the ranking members, Representative Candelora and Senator Roraback.

Many thanks goes out to my co-chair, Senator DeFronzo, as well as my ranking members on the Subcommittee of Bonding, Representative Livvy Floren and Senator Tony Guglielmo, especially Representative Livvy Floren. We worked closely together to make sure that we could address all the concerns from each side of the aisle. All the folks that were involved with trying to identify what we could or could not do or should or should not do in regards to the cancellations.

Also Finance Committee members, Mary Finnegan and Eileen Flynn, were very substantial in crafting.

and helping us the information; LCO, Anne Brennan Carroll and Kumi Sato; OFA, Linda Miller; OLR, Judith Lohman, for all their analysis. And also some thanks to Gary Turco, Rick Lopes, Jason Knight, my aide, and also an intern, Santiago Romero, who also learned quite a bit in this exercise. And if there is anyone that I may have missed, I would apologize. Many people had a hand in this and so this shows great bipartisan efforts.

So to get into a little more detail, what we have done is we have made substantial cancellations in our overall bond capacity in our borrowing and that is in light of the fact that we are facing severe fiscal constraints. We all understand that we need to tighten the belts and this is a measure towards that end.

What the bill does it authorizes about 58.6 million and cancels 480 million in general obligation bond funds, which results in a net decrease of 422 million in general bonding. That is a substantial figure, ladies and gentlemen. That is about 22 percent decrease in overall bonding. And, as far as I can remember -- not that I've been here that long -- but that is the first time that we have

done something of this nature.

In the past, we've always looked to use our bonding to invest in capital projects, invest in our future and rightly so. But it also had become a little unwieldy with numerous requests that just either weren't moving or may not have needed to move. And this exercise has put us back towards using the bonding process for what it was intended to, put money forward for capital projects that are worthy and necessary for our state.

It also authorizes about 40 million in clean water funds... On top of the 35 million that is already there, that is a substantial investment in our clean water funds. And it authorized 7.3 million in special tax obligation bonds for the next coming years.

Mr. Speaker, what we have done, what we can be proud of is this overall decrease in borrowing. Many thanks go out to all the legislators who have come forward and assisted in specifying what was no longer necessary in their particular districts. The administration played a key part, as well, in helping us identify what was not necessary for the agencies. And in regard to the agencies, we made

sure that everybody had funding for the projects that are moving forward. We did a look back over the past five years in terms of allocations that were authorized. We averaged out that amount and made sure that they would have that average amount going forward. As a result of that, we were able to lower our costs substantially.

With the consensus revenues that were just issued a few days ago on April 30th, we are now, in terms of bond capacity, at about 86 percent, 85.8 to be exact. That is substantial -- that is a substantial figure. Prior to this exercise and looking at what we could cancel and what we could keep, we were over the cap. We were at about 91, almost 92 percent. And we needed to find a way to stay below -- beyond -- below our cap so that we could communicate to the markets that we have control of our borrowing. We can show fiscal discipline. And, again, in order to be able to -- in order to have reduced 400 million -- over 400 million in reductions, I believe we can communicate to the markets that our fiscal discipline is intact. We are investing in our future and we should do -- and we should do so.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I would -- I would hope that everybody supports this bill. It has passed out of our committee with unanimous support. Everyone that came forward that had an issue we tried to identify and tried to accommodate them and that is reflective in this bill and these cancellations.

And, with that, I move adoption, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the chamber is adoption of Senate "A".

Representative Candelora, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this amendment which will soon become the bill.

I want to thank the chairs of the Finance Committee and, certainly, the chairs of the subcommittee for all their hard work.

When this process began of needing to cancel debt because our revenues were in such decline, I think we all became concerned of the initial proposal by the Executive Branch, which seemed to

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

84
May 1, 2010

really disproportionately impact our municipalities and -- and really got a lot of their bond funding. And I think that it was a good day when the members of this sub -- subcommittee stepped to the plate and really tried to make this an equitable, fair process. And I think that all the parties did work together to make sure that not only do municipalities have some skin -- skin in the game but also that our state agencies also feel the impact of our economic situation.

And I do understand that there are some concerns that were raised of some of the accounts that are being reduced. I know, in particular, we've had issues of -- of the potable water account in reducing that but I think there was an attempt really to try to make these reductions based on the actual expenditures on an annual basis rather than the lump sum amounts of money that were in those accounts and so I think that these reductions were equitable in that sense.

I think that moving forward we're certainly going to need to become more efficient in how we operate and how we fund these projects and really prioritize our needs. I think that doc -- this

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

85
May 1, 2010

document does reflect that prioritization, and I stand in strong support of the amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Candelora.

Representative Noujaim, do you care to comment on Senate "A"?

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, yes, through you, I do have some questions that I would like to raise in reference to this amendment to Representative Leone.

First and foremost, Representative Leone, one of my -- your comments was that we need to tighten the belt. I am very, very happy about that because it seems to me that we are spending too much money on bonding. The state of Connecticut is way, way bonded. We have a lot of debt so tightening the belt and -- and spending within our means that is very important so I am very truly appreciative for

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

86
May 1, 2010

that.

The other question that I would like to pose to Representative Leone, through you, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this amendment just came out now. It is 97 pages. There is no copy of it, and I am trying to go through on the computer to read it on my screen to see what it does and what it does not do. However, I also see that not only that it deletes some, it also adds some and reinstates some. So, through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Representative Leone, what does it add or what does it reinstate? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes. There were some add backs to the -- to the bond authorizations, and these were requests from the -- from the administration in terms of what was important for them. There was money added back to the Urban Act. There was money back in DECD for entertainment projects. There was money back -- added back for technology wiring, as well as a few others.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

87
May 1, 2010

We also took into concerns any individual legislators that had requests that were important to them. We tried to identify them. And the bulk of the money added back, Mr. Speaker, is for all the people that did come forward -- three -- three of the major cities, New Haven, Bridgeport and -- excuse me one second. Excuse me, there was a mental block there -- New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford. Because there were many items that had been in the pipeline and were necessary what we tried to do is create a bucketing of pools and D -- in sections, such as DECD, entertainment and nonprofits. -- We bucketed the pool -- all the line items, and then we did a net reduction of 58 -- of 15 percent. So what it has done is kept the items alive. It's just there's an overall reduction of 15 percent. And so that is the contribution that those, our three largest cities, along with the legislative -- specifics were able to contribute to the net reduction. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Leone, when -- when you said, Representative Leone, that some people came and requested, was there a -- like an RFQ, a request for proposal, sent out to all legislators or to all municipal leaders saying, Come in and speak with us? In this case, it seems to me that there are some that went put back for the three large cities, but I do not want to be blunt in here but I need to ask a question, if I may, through you, Mr. Speaker. Was there anything being put back for the city of Waterbury or was the City of Waterbury and/or its delegation were asked to come in and -- and put their case or -- or plead their case to put some money in this bonding? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The -- the short answer is yes. At the beginning of the -- of the session, myself, my co-chair, as well as the finance chairs, we crafted a letter that was sent out to all legislators. Everyone should have received it. We sent it in

email, as well as hardcopy, and hopefully the aides got to every legislator. And that was to list for us, as a committee, their priorities, what they required for their individual city, as well as what they thought was already completed or no longer necessary. All the communication that we had received, both verbal and written, we took into account and tried to accommodate everyone with the overall goal to keep what was important intact and eliminate what was not important through the priorities that were given to us. As well as that, we communicated to municipal leaders the same information. So based on those responses, we were able to go through this exercise. The three largest cities didn't have a chance to do as much as what we would have liked so what we tried to do is assist them with crafting a plan that kept the issues alive by creating these pools and then doing a net reduction of 15 percent.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, the answer is, yes, we did communicate. We did wait for feedback, and we tried to accommodate anyone that we may have missed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

90
May 1, 2010

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Leone, was there any request from any member of the Waterbury delegation for either additions and/or subtractions? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The answer is yes. We have the list of what was a priority for members of the delegation. I don't have them off the top of my head, but I have a very thick pile of -- of requests that identified their priorities or each individual's priority. . . . And, again, we tried to accommodate everyone that did replay back to us. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, the Waterbury delegation did meet and addressed all

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

91
May 1, 2010

of the issues that are requested that we need to put forth so we put that as a delegation rather than individuals. So I am aware of the fact that we met altogether and -- and introduced requests that we needed. And the question that I have, again, through you, Mr. Speaker, any of these monies that are put in place for bonding that were added, are any of them the results of stimulus money coming from the federal government or they are simply monies bonded by the state of Connecticut? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

These are not stimulus monies. This is bonding items that have been on the bond project for -- for this whole time. This whole exercise is -- has been to cancel projects that been on the bond list.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

92
May 1, 2010

And through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Leone, if I am -- if I am able to ask this question. Is there one summary, one line, of how much is being taken out, eliminated, and how much is being added to this list seeing that we just received it now. And 97 pages, I have not had the ability to read the whole thing and understand it yet. Just one line, how much was added, how much was taken out? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone, do we have a fiscal note on this matter?

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We do. Hopefully, the good gentleman has it. The first item, it authorizes 58.6 million in additions. It cancels 480.6 million, with a net decrease of 422 million. So, again, we've added 58 million, cancelled 480, with the remaining of 422. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you summarizing and reading off the fiscal note.

Representative Noujaim.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

93
May 1, 2010

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, I totally apologize. I was distracted here by two of my colleagues who I think wanted more for Waterbury.

So I really did miss this answer. And I would like to clarify that I would be able to access the fiscal note here on the screen, but you surprised me by calling me too early or too fast. So may I ask Representative Leone to summarize it again, please, for my benefit. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

It authorizes 58.6 million. It cancels 480.6 million, with a net decrease of 422 million, which is roughly 22 percent of our overall bonding.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This was music to my ears. It was really great.

My final question to Representative Leone is for that \$420 million, are we going to apply this money that we essentially, quote/unquote, we saved, to filling the gap or closing the gap in our budget for the next fiscal year, or there will be some bonding requests coming before us in the near future, like in the next two hours? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I don't believe that question is relevant to what we're trying to do. And what I mean by that is that these are cancellations. What we do with the excess capacity that we have generated, meaning what we now have towards the cap, we are at 86 percent of the cap so roughly we have about a 4 percent float before we reach the cap. What we do as a legislature, what we agree to do here in the future, how we wish to do that would result in whatever future bonding requests would come from any individual member or the administration. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

95
May 1, 2010

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate Representative Leone's answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Scribner of the 107th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

I -- I just want to rise, first to commend the General Bonding Subcommittee and its leadership for not just bringing this document before us today, but for all the extensive time and effort and work and evaluation that they've gone through in recent weeks to create this document. And I think in as much as it does a significant reduction in the prior authorization area of our state's bonding authorizations it probably does more than just that. It really does send a very strong and what I believe to be an important signal that this legislature understands the present economic conditions and the impact that bond indebtedness really does have on an

ongoing basis in regard to our bond rating in the industry.

We all know that for many years we have carried a very significant debt level. One of the highest in the country. And at this particular point in time as we're facing challenges and uncertainties, this is a very important and prudent step. The General Bonding Subcommittee went through all of the authorizations with a fine tooth comb and in a great focused diligence tried to come up with the best possible result and also exercise a high level of fairness. And I think there were many discussion that went on amongst the subcommittee itself, but they also created a convincing argument to the full Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and really came together in a unified way to say this is something that needs to be done. And -- and clearly it does.

I wish that in every other matter that affects the State's finances, we could operate in such a fiscally responsible way. I'm hoping that as we look at this today and get behind it and support it, we recognize that the opportunity does exist and this sets a very high bar, an example of what this

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

97
May 1, 2010

state needs to do as we make tough decisions in order to guide the state through the future.

I would like to pose a question through you, Mr. Speaker to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you.

To the chair of the sub -- Sub Bonding Committee, in a prior question that was raised by Representative Noujaim, you indicated some of the add backs that were done before the document that is before us was actually finalized and created? I think one of those items was the Urban Act; is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the short answer is yes. I can give some details in a moment. What we had done was we had initially made a substantial cut in urban acts, but, after talking with the administration, we were able to put some of those monies back in so that the Urban Act would be

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

98
May 1, 2010

utilized in the appropriate manner. Through you,
Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Scribner.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, can you just -- not
with specific detail because I know that that is a
discretionary fund that is traditionally created and
its use is determined by the administration but
could you just give me a figure of what that fund
level was and what it has been increased to?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I could just ask for a moment of time?

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LEONE (148th):

There is an unallocated balance -- there was an

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

99
May 1, 2010

unallocated balance of 98 million. We had initially proposed a reduction of 10 million, and we added back another 5 million so there's only a reduction of 5 million. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Scribner.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So I understand that to mean that the original proposal that was crafted by the General Bonding Subcommittee was to reduce that particular fund by 10 million, and we've added 5 back in so the net is a \$5 million decrease in the Urban Act; is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That is exactly correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Scribner

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And just for a point of clarification, I think

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

100
May 1, 2010

you may have already made the statement but I've missed it. The -- the total reduction that we have before us in this completed amendment, is what figure? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would you kindly read the fiscal note again, Representative Leone?

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The net decrease, the overall decrease with the add backs and all the cancellations works out to 422 million, which was a superhuman effort by the way. And so, again, many thanks out to all members. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Scribner

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I want to applaud the members of the General Bonding Subcommittee, in particular, Representative Leone and those that worked very closely and diligently on this process.

As a long time member of that subcommittee, I've had firsthand opportunity to know the inner

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

101
May 1, 2010

workings of it. And we, probably, as a General Assembly, don't often know how much time and effort goes into that long-term strategy planning and how difficult and challenging it can be. So through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Representative Leone and certainly Representative Floren who's not with us today, but they worked well together and set a great example for us all.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Scribner.

Representative Shawn Johnston of the 51st, you have the floor, sir.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if I can a question to the proponent of the amendment before us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

As we sit at our desk trying to digest the size of this and it is a strike-all amendment so it is not what came from Finance. There are changes to it. And Representative Noujaim just walked away

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

102
May 1, 2010

from his desk a few minutes ago but that when this amendment was put before us one of us -- I started from the beginning of the bill and Representative Noujaim started from the end of the bill, and it's a process that I found in this building can kind of speed along trying to digest the changes. But to this point -- maybe five minutes ago when he walked away, there were 67 sections that we were not able to get to.

If I could ask the proponent of the amendment to just walk through some of the major changes from the file copy that came from the Finance Committee to the amendment that's before us, maybe it would help me to further understand what some of those changes are because, Mr. Speaker, you've referenced the fiscal note a couple of times and no surprise to you I was reading the fiscal note pretty quickly once we were able to get copies in the back of the chamber, which was delayed at the start of the debate. And the fiscal note is a page and a half long. I've seen fiscal notes six and seven pages on very small bills so, quite frankly, the fiscal note does a terrific job of the -- of the broad picture of the net increases or the net decreases and where

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

103
May 1, 2010

we're adding in composite. But, in detail, it is -- it lacks complete detail. So if the proponent of the amendment, through you, Mr. Speaker, could just summarize some of the major changes from file copy that we all had available to us before today and the amendment, which we did not have available to us, I would be very appreciative. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would love to be able to go through each and every line item in every section but, as mentioned, it is quite lengthy. I think that would take an inordinate amount of time given what we were trying to do.

But, with that said -- and also let me mention this, the -- this package, the one that came out of the Finance Committee was our -- was sort of our starting point once we went through the exercise of getting all the priorities from all the legislators, as well as the administration. That figure, when we came out of the Finance Committee, was roughly about

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

104
May 1, 2010

412 million in decreases. We're -- we're now in terms a net decrease of 422 so, again, that's a result of some of the add backs as we were trying to come up with this figure.

So the document even though it was hard for people here, at this moment to pull it off, there are screens and off the computer and waiting the printout, the bulk of this information has been available. And, again, to reiterate, we tried to address each and every person's concern, and we would have hoped that there was time to go through some of these sections.

But going through some of these sections, Sections 1 through 24, addresses the pools that were created for New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport. Again, those are items that were bucketed and then was a 15 percent decrease for every line item.

Sections 26 through 39 are in regards to statutory sections and the net decrease was about 160 million.

Sections 42 through 105 were authorizations -- were authorizations that were before 2004. They totaled up to a decrease of 55 million.

Sections 106 through 209 were authorizations

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

105
May 1, 2010

from 2004 and 2005. Those are sections that totaled up to 94 million.

Sections 210 through 345, again, those were authorized in 2002, 2008 or 2009. Those are decreases of 170 million. That total is the \$480 million, but the add back of the 58 roughly 422 million.

And also there's a section here for non-geo bonds. There were 40 million for the Clean Water Funds, and an additional 7.3 million for STO bonds of which those two figures do not measure up against our cap. Through you, Mr. Speaker..

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

12

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you very much.

In the fiscal note it mentions and you mentioned in your discussion the geo bond adjustments for Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. In the file copy before the Finance Committee, did we address those three cities, specifically, in a different fashion than the other municipalities in the state or is that just the change in the amendment that's before us? Through you, Mr.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

106
May 1, 2010

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

No. That was a -- the pools were discussed in committee. It was presented, as such, so there are no substantial changes in that -- in that area.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you.

And not being on the Finance Committee and not hearing that discussion, would you be able to just walk me a little bit through the logic of -- of where we came up with Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport and are there certain circumstances in those cities that are very different than -- than maybe Waterbury, maybe the City of Windham, Torrington, Putnam, Vernon. Without going on, I'm just trying to understand what may be different in those three cities that they deserve or that -- that we think it's important enough that we make some

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

107
May 1, 2010

changes in a different fashion for those three cities than we've made changes in other municipalities. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And -- and a very good question. No, we did not give any kind of preferential treatment. The result, again, was awaiting all the folks that were interested in every town to give us their priorities. That alone was time consuming. The -- being that these -- those three are our largest cities, there were numerous items and numerous legislators that, for whatever reason, wasn't -- weren't able to get to us everything that we really needed in terms to meet our deadlines. And in order to be fair with -- what we did not want to do, what we made a conscious effort not to do was to just cut just indiscriminately. All these cuts are what people and what folks identified and came back to us. So as a result of that because of the communication that we did not have in time, we were trying to come up with a solution that was fair and

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

108
May 1, 2010

equitable but yet kept the -- the items that were important intact. And we bucketed them into pools that we could work through the municipalities with an overall net reduction of 15 percent. Upon communication to those cities, they found that acceptable and that's how we came to that measure. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I -- I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Mr. Speaker, when I -- when I look at the overall affect of what I'm doing, I do not have any argument with that. Quite frankly, I've been a loud opponent of our overborrowing and the fact that we're actually cancelling some bond authorizations in my mind -- or deauthorizing maybe is the proper term -- to try to bring our level of debt down, I think it's a good thing.

I've got to tell you can't -- we cannot look upon this action alone without considering what's going to happen over the next three days. There was some discussion a little while ago that this is the bill before us and any other discussion maybe isn't

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

109
May 1, 2010

germane to the bill that's before us. I -- I beg to differ and I think it's absolutely incredibly germane.

Just in the last hour on our desk we saw a copy of a bill for the UConn Health Center that all of us know is going to be called before this session is over. So while we're reducing our load of debt into the future, there's not a one of us in this building who if they're honest with themselves doesn't think that that reduction is going to be completely used up before we leave here.

So I look at a 422 million net reduction in the bill before us that we have to vote on now, good thing. No disagreement whatsoever. If the gentleman bringing this up could try to touch upon some other items that have been before the Finance Committee this year and that he might suspect might fill in this hole, I think it helps us to understand what we're doing here better.

I look at the fiscal note for the UConn Health Center and as best I can tell, we're going to borrow about \$237 million in new authorizations. I've got to think -- I don't know if we're going to have a school construction bill before us this session or

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

110
May 1, 2010

if we're sticking with the two-year program that we had before. But, on average, school construction, local school construction for all of our towns -- I think, on average, over the last 10 years has been between 500 million and 800 million.

And, seemingly, where a lot of us get our information lately because oftentimes discussions in here seem to be a little bit quiet and seems like press finds out things before a lot of the members find out things. Reading the paper and looking at Connecticutmirror.org, it appears to me that there's been some sort of a budget deal agreed upon in the last few days that's going to borrow money. Doesn't appear that it's going to borrow money to build buildings, doesn't appear that it's going to borrow money for capital projects. It appears it's going to borrow money because we just don't have it. And my indications are we're going to borrow about a billion dollars when we leave this building because we couldn't balance a budget.

So I look at we're freeing up 422 wonderful things the bill before us. But I think we have to understand that there's a good chance that that UConn Health Center bill is going to go. We're

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

111
May 1, 2010

going to fill in 237 million there. I imagine there's going to be some other borrowing for purposes and, then, if we borrow a billion dollars, I'm not sure how we stand at the cap.

So I think in fair discussion, we ought to include actions that may be taken later this session, and I guess I say that because a 4 -- 22 -- 422 million net reduction based upon some other actions we take maybe should be and 8 or a 900 million dollar reduction and maybe it should be greater.

So if the gentleman might try to touch upon a couple of areas that he thinks the Finance Committee may be borrowing before we leave here, it might help me to make a decision on whether I think this is adequate and how I cast my vote on this -- on this bill before us. And I know that goes beyond this bill, but I think it's a fair discussion, through you, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to have as we consider this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

I think I'll allow a brief discussion.

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

112
May 1, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You're correct. The -- any additional borrowing that may or may not come before the legislature, in the scheme of things is what we do as a state is -- is very much relevant. In regards to this particular bill, it is not part of that. Again, this bill was strictly focusing on cancellations.

But in regards to the UConn Health Center -- and you mentioned how there'll be 200-plus million in borrowing. The way that UConn Health Center will move forward, if it does move forward, as we would look upon it as a legislature and have a vote on it. The initial money, if I understand through -- from memory so don't hold me to this -- I think is 25 million that the UConn -- UConn school will reauthorize existing bonds within the UConn 2000. There would be 100 million that would be coming from the federal government. If we receive that 100 million, that would then trigger the state borrowing 30 million to accommodate the other hospitals to make sure that there is no harm. And, then, finally, there would be \$207 million that would be tacked on to the UConn 2000 not part of the GO

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

113
May 1, 2010

bonds. This would be part of UConn and that would be in the out years. So there are things that need to happen step by step before that all occurs. But, importantly, that is not part of this bill.

There could be other things that might come forward that I'm not aware of at the moment. There were other programs that were asked for in terms of bonding. I do recall DOIT had asked for roughly 40 or 60 million in bonding for their new data centers. That is not coming forward as far as I know.

So, again, the net result is we have made \$180 million in capacity towards our cap, towards our 90 percent cap, not towards our 100 percent cap what the treasurer use to go out to market. So given our current state, I would hold to what we have done here in this particular bill as a good thing. Other items that may come up for bonding request, I think we should vote on them when they come forward.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Leone.

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thought you shut me off, Mr. Speaker. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate that -- that response and -- and clearly that is an addition to this bill. If I could ask a very specific question on this bill. We've reduced our -- under the cap -- under our bonding cap, we've reduced our capacity to 85.8 percent. How much in dollarwise, how much room do we have left before we bump up against our cap aft -- if we pass this bill as is and we're at 85.8 percent? If he could try to help me out as far as dollarwise what -- what type of borrowing will we be able to authorize through the rest of the session to keep under the cap? Through you, Mr. Speaker. *

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, again, we were about 200-plus million over the cap. I don't have a dollar figure for that. But being that we were at about 86 percent of cap with these reductions, the dollars before the 90 percent limit are about \$1,039,000,000. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Johnston.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

115
May 1, 2010

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you.

And when we hit that 90 percent cap, what -- what does that mean to this General Assembly? What type of action would we have to take if -- if borrowing pushed us over that 90 percent cap? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If we do hit the 90 percent and go over the 90 percent, then the -- the administration then has to enact measures and it comes back before the legislature. And, obviously, that's not a predicament we want to find ourselves in because it would be contentious for sure and rightly so. So we have done everything possible to not reach that self-imposed 90 percent cap. Again, that's a self-imposed cap. We as a legislature put in place as a result of going back to the income tax years in 1991 or 1992. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Johnston.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

116
May 1, 2010

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

And thank -- I thank the gentleman for that answer. And -- and if, in fact, we -- is there any way when we hit that 90-percent cap for this legislature to -- by action that we take, is any way to go over that 90 percent? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

I'm going to allow this just -- just a few more seconds and because --

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone, a brief response, please.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, if we go over or if we hit or go over the 90-percent cap, the Governor gets involved and then also the legislature gets involved another time to address the issues. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

And -- and the reason I ask that question is because I'm trying to understand because I think that the legislature does have the ability, unfortunately, probably to say notwithstanding our self-imposed cap that we can go beyond and the question I'm asking -- I'm trying to look, if I remember right, I think it might take a super majority vote and since that's not on this bill, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave that discussion, but I wanted to bring it out there and maybe we can quietly have that discussion among ourselves because I think before this session over we're going to be bumping up against that.

I -- I appreciate the Representative answering my questions. I appreciate you, Mr. Speaker, allowing me a little leeway to try to go beyond because I think it is important that we see that entire picture as we contemplate this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Johnston.

Further on Senate Amendment "A." We have Representative Mikutel of the 45th.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

118
May 1, 2010

Thank you, Mr. --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You have the floor.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, this certainly is a -- a proud and historic moment. I -- I certainly can't recall any time in the past that this legislature has deauthorized bonding requests, certainly, not to the extent that we have or are attempting to do here.

So it is a proud -- a proud day for all of us because we certainly need to demonstrate that we can exercise some fiscal discipline up here. I think this sends a -- a good and strong message to Wall Street and the bond rating companies and that will help us maintain a good and solid bond rating.

I'd like to ask Representative Leone a question, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Yes. With regards to the add-ons, there was an add on to the Urban Act that I think you said, they added some money, bonding money, back to the DECD;

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

119
May 1, 2010

is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is correct. I would have to check my notes. Can -- is there specific request?

REP. LEONE (148th):

Well, I'd just like to know what those add-backs were to Department of Economic Development?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

The 58 million were the pools and -- for the cities, and those were in sections of DECD. There were Economic Development type of requests, whether it was entertainment, culture and tourism, things of that nature. There were nonprofits that were bucketed so that they were as a group, as well as another. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mikutel.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Thank you. I -- I would just like to echo some of the concerns of Representative Johnston whose voice will certainly be missed. And I -- I -- I'm trying to get a handle on these future bonding requests, but I think what -- I'll just sum up by saying that I -- I think now we have becu -- become under the bonding cap that we should not rush to fill the gap with various bonding requests that do not reflect the true needs of this state on a statewide basis. It's going to be tempting to put in a lot of bonding requests again and we need to exercise restraint because we do have a -- a number of big bonding items that are coming up, and I -- I don't want just to see this whole fruitful exercise that we've just are engaging in go by the boards with a rush to fill that gap with various projects that may be of benefit to a few but not benefit to the state as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Mikutel.

Representative Miner of the 66th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any questions. I -- I just wanted to say on the record that I think it is important that we have authorized some additional funds for clean water problems that exist around the state. It's not easy taking money away and knowing that there are some things that we still need to fund. But, certainly, humans impact on the environment is not always the best and I think this one area that we've talked about over the couple of years where we could agree that probably spending a little extra money was wise -- wise use of state funds.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to say that I think a number of people have talked about how we're perceived by rating agencies when it comes to our ability to borrow money. And I do think that this will be perceived in a good way that we have considered our priorities and tried to live within our means. But, Mr. Speaker, while it's a good step and I think a very small one, just like the step we took last week. I think the more important steps that we will take between now and the end of session may, unfortunately, mitigate this good action. If we go ahead and borrow a lot of money that we don't

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

122
May 1, 2010

have to pay -- the funds to pay back, I don't think the bond rating agencies will be fooled by this -- this activity.

These decisions did not come easy. We should make difficult decision between now and the end of session to mirror these so that the good thoughts we want people to have about our ability to pay will transcend not only today but the next four or five days and on into the future. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Miner.

Representative Hetherington of the 125th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few brief questions to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, what does -- what do these cut do to the STEEP Grants? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

123
May 1, 2010

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did not touch the STEEP grants.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Also, on another very specific area, what about the Transit-Oriented Development grants for towns? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, could you be more specific? We -- there's nothing in the package that is identified as -- as a line item as transit-oriented development. There's many items that one could identify as transit-oriented development so I just would like some clarification. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

I can understand that. These are grants that

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

124
May 1, 2010

are designed to further the State's policy favoring transit development -- trans -- public transportation and situation of housing and other facilities near transit opportunities. I'm wondering if this falls within the purview of the STEEP grants and that is possible. I wonder if the Representative knows that -- the answer to that? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I would take that question to reflect this STO bond, Special Transportation bonds, that would be relevant to transit-oriented development, which are part of this package. And I guess you, also, could argue that the Urban -- the Urban -- the Urban Act section would also fall under that category.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, through you, and those -- those grants

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

125
May 1, 2010

would be preserved, that's the question, Mr.
Speaker, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the Urban Act, yes,
and the STO bonds, yes. We've -- we've identified
anything that we were told was important. Through
you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the gentleman's answer. And I
also applaud the substantial amount of work, very
substantial amount of work, that's obviously gone
into this, and I would urge support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Dillon of the 92nd District, you
have the floor, madam.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question, through you, to the proponent of the

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

126
May 1, 2010

amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you.

Through you, first, I want to thank you for your very hard work on this bill, but I do have a couple of questions about the structure of the -- of the pots for of the cities. Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is one particular item affecting homes in the Westville section of New Haven that were damaged after some excavation work out in the west side of the city. And it appears to be included here, that is, if -- it's permitted to use the money for the -- for that purpose, but I wonder exactly, is Representative still here?

REP. LEONE (148th):

Yes. Hold on. I was just --

REP. DILLON (92nd):

I didn't -- I didn't yell or anything?

How exactly that would work? It's a pot and, originally, there was \$2 million set aside for that, and a study was conducted by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. The dol -- the results

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

127
May 1, 2010

of that study were provided.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. I was distracted for a moment. Could the gentlelady, please pose the question one more time.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you. I was just giving you some background on a very big bill, through you, Mr. Speaker, so that I realize sometimes you can lose track of small parts of a very large bill but they loom large on the local level.

There were a group of homeowners who were affected, and I was working cooperatively with the former commissioner of Economic -- of Environmental Protection, and we had a study conducted. And there was \$2 million set aside for the -- to provide some relief for homeowners in Beverly Hills. Now, I don't know if you have that language before you, but how exactly would these pots work? Would that be competing with the other components of the New Haven pots? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The answer would be, yes. In terms of how we came across the pools for those three large city, again, we were trying to be as fair and equitable as possible in identifying the reductions or the possible reductions, and rather than go line by line for those cities and make arbitrary cuts without having legitimate feedback from the legislators or from the municipalities in the time that we had in order to make a decision, we -- we saved every item that was a -- was in those particular cities and the net result was to reduce the total amount by 15 percent. So, in essence, if there was a \$2 million line item, one could say there's a 15 percent reduction in that \$2 million so that the -- there's an overall drop. So every item is available for the -- for anyone who feels that there's a priority to try and move it on to the Bond Commission and depending on when that occurs, hopefully, there would be the pool of money available. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, thank you, I believe you're restating something that you stated earlier, and I appreciate that. But -- but I don't think it gets to my concern.

There's a pot of money that for which, as I read the new language, those specific pr -- it is allowable that those dollars be used for those projects. But, on the ground, actually, all of the money, for example, could go to Tweed New Haven Airport, and the homeowners could get zero. Is that not true? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Are -- are you talking something that's a function of the Bond Commission, Representative Dillon?

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the impact of changing individual line items into a pot and whether each individual line item can get anything at all. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Leone.

REP. LEONE (148th):

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

130
May 1, 2010

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the intent is that every item has available to the funding minus 15 percent that would be for the Bond Commission to work with municipality to identify that. So if -- if any -- if any entity were to take all the money for one line item that would be an egregious act of the intent in the spirit of this legislation. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92nd):

Thank you very much for your response, through you, Mr. Speaker.

The Governor's been announcing aid to a number of individuals elsewhere in the state for flooding, and I've been getting questions about that from some individuals who travelled up here many times to testify before our committees and are wondering what it is about New Haven. So I really appreciate you're saying that on the record that it would be an egregious act if any one line item got all the money or if any one -- line item got zero. And I thank you very much for your answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Dillon.

Further on Senate "A"?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

All those opposed.

Senate "A" is adopted.

Further on the bill, as amended? If not, staff and guests please return to the well. House members take your seat. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

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

Will the Clerk please take a tally and would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

ckd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

132
May 1, 2010

Senate Bill Number 25, as amended by Senate
"A," in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	145
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	6

DÉPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill, as amended, passes in concurrence
with the Senate.

Are there any announcements or points of
personal privilege?

Representative Kehoe of the 31st, for what
purpose do you arise, sir?

REP. KEHOE (31st):

For matter of personal privilege, for an
introduction, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. KEHOE (31st):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This -- earlier this week, we've passed the
Vulnerable User Bill in this chamber which came out
of many of the bike and pedestrian groups in town.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE
REVENUE
AND BONDING
PART 2
280 – 559**

2010

year additional revenue to the state pension funds. And we urge your consideration, favorable consideration of that bill.

The next one is Senate Bill 27, AN ACT LIMITING STATE BOND AUTHORIZATIONS. Just for the record, I have submitted more detailed written testimony on this bill and some substitute language, which we think will clarify the intent and make sure that the process of sunseting bond authorizations is done consistent with principles of the process of our issuance of bonds.

Finally, House Bill 5535, which is AN ACT CONCERNING A MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE STATE TREASURER REGARDING THE STATE'S CASH BALANCE. Just for the record, the Treasurer does not have a problem with this bill at all. There is some concern about subsection 4 of the bill and because of what it asks us to submit and how we actually track the common cash pool. There's money that comes in and out on a daily basis. We think that what is implied in subsection 4 is probably too narrow. We have also -- I have attached this part of my written testimony, substitute language that we think will make the bill work and I ask for consideration of that.

Those are the other bills that I have to comment on. I'll turn it over to Secretary Cicchetti and then we'll come back and talk about securitization.

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: Thank you, Howard. Representative Staples, Senator Daily, Representative Candelora, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Michael Cicchetti, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. I wanted to comment on a couple of bills, two of which are the

SB 25 SB 27
SB 431 SB 443
SB 477 SB 478
SB 484 SB 485
HB 5528 HB 5529
HB 5534

Governor's bills, and then offer some comments on some of the other bills that are before the committee today.

The First bill is Senate Bill 25. This is the Governor's proposed capital bill for the following fiscal year. This provides an additional 31 million dollars in general obligation bonds for two projects. One would be the new data center for the Department of Information Technology. Currently, the DUIT data center is in a leased space in East Hartford and not only is the space leased, and a very expensive lease at that, it's also in a flood zone, which is not necessarily great for electronics. So the goal would be to move that to a state owned site, somewhere that is a little more safe.

Secondly, there is ten million dollars for a municipal capital assistance program. This would provide incentive grants of up to \$250,000 to two towns who make equipment purchases together. There would have to be a five year life of that equipment, but we believe this will help incentivize towns to start to work cooperatively, but in a voluntary manner. We don't want to force them to do so, but this would be a voluntary program, and also give them some incentive to move forward with some of these joint services.

This bill also reduces the amount of bond authorizations by 388.7 million. 242 million dollars worth of those cancellations are necessary to get below the statutory bond cap. Currently because of our significant revenue loss, if the Finance Committee were to adopt the revenue estimates that were issued in the last consensus revenue estimate issued in January, we would be 242 million dollars above

our statutory bond cap because of the decline in our revenues.

The Governor proposes to reduce the authorizations in this bill by 389 million, partially to get below the bond cap, but also to make room for some of the other programs that she is proposing, namely the previous two I just mentioned, plus the 100 million dollar loan pool program for small businesses that I believe was heard in another committee.

The second bill is senate Bill 27, this would limit state bond authorizations. Any bond authorizations that is on the books for five years or more that has not been used would be automatically canceled. Also, this would amend current law so that if throughout the year the consensus revenue estimates are well below what has been adopted in the budget then the -- in terms of calculating the statutory bond cap -- we would use the consensus revenues as opposed to the revenues that were adopted in the budget, that, at times, can be dated. The ones we're operating under now were actually voted on almost 18 months ago.

I know the Treasurer had some concerns about that -- the operation of that, and I believe that we can meet those concerns and address those concerns and come up with something that works.

If both of these bills are adopted, the total amount of bond authorizations that would canceled would be just under 440 million dollars, some of which are earmarks, some of which are programs set up for agencies.

Now, I'm just offering some comment on some other bills quickly. Senate Bill 431, which is

assistance of the individuals that Howard mentioned. If -- you know, one of the positives of using the energy funds are that it's an existing source of revenue. No one's bills will go up as a result of that. They may not -- depending on how it's structured, they may not go down as much as they otherwise could have, assuming that DPUC would have allowed those charges to expire. I think the new revenue really would have been a Keno, institution of a Keno game that would have increased the revenue to the state. But we would not be diverting any existing revenue source to the state.

REP. STAPLES: Thank you. Representative Leone, you're up next.

REP. LEONE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I have a few questions so I'll try to -- I guess we'll bounce around a little bit and I'll try to make them as brief as possible, any one of which we could spend lengthy conversation, so I will try and keep it as short as possible.

My first one is in regards to the bonding authorizations and the reduction of bond unallocated balances. And I see that it's pretty much the same as what was proposed in the past year, in terms of all the legislative requests, which totalled roughly 380 million dollars. And that's an effort to make room for reducing our cap level and then utilizing the excess for some hopefully worthy projects. But my question would be why weren't any of the agencies looked at as also potential cuts? I would argue that if the legislative side can be making cuts then we could do the same for the agencies, who also have in many categories, ample room to decrease a bit.

8B25 8B27

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: Thank you, Representative Leone. First, a couple issues. Let me state that anytime you go to cancel a bond authorization, it's not a welcome process. But unfortunately it's something that we -- that is necessary to do. Many of the authorizations that were canceled were items that, while are worthy, and would potentially in better times could even be worthy of an actual grant from the state, they don't all fall into what I would say are the core function of the state, which is right now, given the financial difficulties that we have, we really need to focus on what the state's infrastructure is and the things that we have to do.

Of course, putting aside for a minute that the vast majority of what we bond on an annual basis is for lower ed school construction, I think in next year, we're going to be bonding about 680 million dollars for lower ed construction. You add on top of that UCONN and the CSU 2000 program and the vast majority of what we bond on an annual basis is consumed by these education building programs. It leaves very little room for the state's own infrastructure needs before we start to move into some of these other programs like a grant to the Farmers Cow, LLC for business development.

I will also add, though, that if you take the Governor's two bond bills together, that's Senate Bill 25 and 27, Senate Bill 27 would cancel an additional 50 million dollars in bonding. And a good majority of that 50 million dollars are actually bond authorizations for agencies that were established and have not been touched in the five year period.

So we look at a grand total of about just under 440 million dollars worth of cancellations. There are both agency cancellations and some of these, the majority of which I'll admit are these earmarks that were put into the bond bill over the course of the years.

REP. LEONE: Thank you. And I'm glad to hear we are now looking at the agency cuts. I think there is room for maneuvering there and we can make it equal across the board. And then I would also argue that some of those legislative requests are capital projects and do fall under the realm of bonding proposals.

Let me ask this follow-up question to this one topic. So if we were to go forward with the Governor's plan to hold this -- to eliminate anything over five years, would that also account for any agency dollars that weren't spent in five years?

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: Yes, I can provide you with a list of the authorizations that are older than five years, and many of the items on this list that are new as opposed to the cancellation list and Senate Bill 25, most of those are agency authorizations. So for example, the first one on the list is DMV. The second one is TDP, the next one is DDP, the next one is DCDV. So a vast majority of ones that are on this list alone are going to be agency authorizations.

REP. LEONE: Thank you. Let me move on to the next one. In terms of the bond authorization for Department of Information Technology, DUIT, in other words, the 21 million, what would be the savings if we were to proceed with that?

28 March 22, 2010
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING 10:00 A.M.
COMMITTEE

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: I don't have an out year savings of what that would be. I do know that they are in an expensive lease in the city of East Hartford, which was done -- I know that they were in a building on Capitol Avenue, which ended up falling down, so they were under pressure to move very quickly. That building was identified and they moved in. However, now that -- obviously, the emergency is over, they've been there for a few years, but in looking forward -- actually, I do have some cost savings. Over a 20 year period we would save about 62 million dollars in facility costs if we moved to a state owned data center versus having one that's leased. So it's a significant amount of money.

REP. LEONE: For over a 20 year period. And that's -- and we would also have to allocate another 31 million in 2011, which would be a combined of what -- 52 million dollars, correct, in order to achieve this savings?

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: No -

REP. LEONE: Well, it's 21 million that we're looking for now and then an additional 31 million in 2011.

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: No. The 21 million is for fiscal year 11, that's for the data center. The 10 million also in fiscal year 11 is for the municipal capital assistance program -- that capital equipment purchasing program for towns.

REP. LEONE: If I remember correctly, there was more bonding authorization for DUIT in the out years.

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: In the out

29
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

years, it would be a total -- an additional 27 million -

REP. LEONE: 27 million, okay.

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: -- that would need to take effect in fiscal year 12, I'm sorry, 11.

REP. LEONE: So again, and I understand the important of DUIT, I really do, because I am a technical oriented person, but here we are looking at over 50 million dollars in a very short period of time for bonding to achieve this savings over 20 year period of which within -- at the pace of technology it would be obsolete fairly quick. So -- the -

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: Well, part of the auth -- most of this authorization is for the physical structure of the building, not for the technology that would go inside it. And over that, we're going to be paying debt service on those bonds over the 20 year period or we'll be paying lease payments to a landlord over that 20 year period. And it's actually cheaper for the state to make a debt service than it is to make the lease payments.

REP. LEONE: And have we found a location, two locations for these buildings?

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: One of the locations that we're looking at is the Cedar Crest facility in Newington.

REP. LEONE: And that's one so we need two, though, correct? So do we have the second one?

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: I believe Cedar Crest can handle both the -- yeah, because

we're really looking at two different -- one would be the structure to hold the actual data center, the technology itself, the other would be more akin to office space for the individuals that work at DUIT. And it's my understanding that the Cedar Crest facility, if we move forward there, can handle both facilities.

REP. LEONE: Okay. Moving on to the next one, in terms of the hospital tax proposal, is that in any way connected to the UCONN Health Proposal?

9B418

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: No, it is not.

REP. LEONE: And speaking of the UCONN Health, again, that's also some -- looking for some bonding authorizations. And I know it's split up between federal UCONN dollars and then the actual bonding allocation. Could you just lay that out again, how that works?

DEPUTY SECRETARY MICHAEL CICHETTI: Absolutely. The total project cost is estimated to be 352 million dollars. 100 million of which would be through either federal or other non-state funds, which would leave 252 million dollars of required state bonding. 232 of that would be for the new tower at John Dempsey Hospital, for John Dempsey Hospital. 25 million would be a reprogramming of existing UCONN 21st Century dollars. There would be new authorizations of 207 million.

Now, the way that it is intended that would work, it would restructure 207 million dollars of existing UCONN 21st Century dollars and then essentially add on two additional years to the program to pick up -- I'm sorry -- to make up for the changes, the redirection of the money to the health center.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR DAILY: Any other questions from committee members? Thank you very much for your time and for your interest. Next on our agenda is Barry Kasden followed by Scot Weicker and Eric Mitzenmacher.

BARRY KASDAN: Senator Daily and members of the committee, I will abbreviate my comments since you have my extensive written testimony.

My name is Barry Kasden, I'm president and the CEO of Bridges, a community support system incorporated. I'm here this morning to implore you to support the above referenced bonding grant to Bridges in Senate Bill 25, Section 298, the bonding is slated to be repealed.

This is a critical and essential community project. It impacts the lives and welfare of thousands of adults and children in our region. These are difficult times, but this is an investment that will save the state money and ensure the grant funds received by Bridges continue to fund desperately needed mental health services. In addition, it would complete the second phase of a project that the state funded to acquire the property we are now ready to develop.

This bonding project has received priority designation from Milford and from our local delegation of legislators. In summary, Bridges has been serving the greater Milford, Orange and West Haven area for over 50 years. It has grown into a major health care provider serving over 5,000 individuals annually in our region, serving some 22 towns for out patient emergency and home based services. With over 160 staff,

Bridges provides critically needed mental health and addiction services to a growing population of adults, children in our region.

Today over 40 of our staff are doubled up in offices that are designed for one person. Some staff, including medical staff do not have a designated office. A large number of our staff and clients are forced to park on busy traffic roads and streets.

Bridges' operating budget exceeds 11 million dollars, over 70 percent of that is state grants and contracts. The population of Milford, Orange and West Haven is close to 135,000 residents. A \$600,000 bonding investment equals approximately \$4.50 per capita for this core service. To rent the needed professional medical office space over a period of five to ten years, the cost would far exceed the bonding request. Those rental dollars would be covered by grant funds that's drawn away from direct services.

We are currently short by almost 5,000 square feet of space with projections up to 9,000 over the next ten years. Leasing space is very problematic since it will decentralize services and result in duplicate efforts and resources to administer and coordinate care of thousands of clients. If we are forced to rent space this would become a fiscal albatross on Bridges and state grant dollars.

Bridges has been a partner with the state of Connecticut for over 50 years, delivering cost effective care in a manner to some of our neediest and at risk populations. The proposed property development is prudent, cost effective, essential and critical to Bridges' ability to continue providing behavioral health

care services to area residents.

It is a plan that has been in the pipeline for a number of years with state dollars already invested in the property. It is an investment not only in our health care system, but the promotion of local construction jobs and community investment which is so urgently needed in today's economy.

This is ready to go ahead and we have already spent considerable time and money on its development. Too many services along with the well being of thousands of adults and children are dependent upon its completion. Thank you very much.

SENATOR DAILY: Are there any questions of Mr. Kasden? I think you were very clear in your testimony orally and in your written testimony. Thank you.

BARRY KASDAN: Thank you. We look forward to your support.

SENATOR DAILY: Scott Weicker followed by Eric Mitzenmacher followed by Representative Miner.

SCOTT WEICKER: Senator Daily and esteemed committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Scott Weicker, I'm the president of Live Green Connecticut. Live Green Connecticut will be a two day festival in Norwalk, Connecticut to promote living green with a focus on education, sustainability, caring for our environment and our natural resources. Monies raised through Live Green Connecticut will go to environmental and conservation charities.

My goals in putting on Live Green Connecticut

SB 484

Taking money from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund is the wrong thing to do. Not only because you'd be jeopardizing my livelihood and the livelihood of my coworkers, but because taking the money from this fund is an absolutely bad business decision.

These funds provide programs that help keep Connecticut competitive in the business world. Smaller businesses gain sustainability because of cost saving measures gained through the use of seed money. Raiding the fund will put one more nail in the coffin of Connecticut's economic climate.

I have been in the energy efficiency business since 2004 and helped many businesses through the use of these funds. Taking the money to help the state deficit may help the budget, but it would not be helping the state.

I love my job, I love this state and I love the energy efficiency industry. And I love having the ability to help businesses save energy and save money every day. Please don't let me have to shut the lights off to the many Connecticut businesses who can still benefit from the services of my company. Thank you.

REP. STAPLES: Thank you very much. Appreciate your testimony and how succinct it was.

David Sutherland followed by Jeff Nichols, Caroline Humphries, Pat McDonald, Bill Cibes.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: Good afternoon, my name is David Sutherland. I'm here today representing the Nature Conservancy and we, too, are opposed to the proposal to divert and use the energy efficiency funds for securitization.

8B25

But I focused my written testimony and just want to briefly say a few words about the Clean Water Fund and thank this committee for the support, the very strong support you gave it two years ago in increasing the bonding for the Clean Water Fund and express our respectful dismay with the cuts you made to the bonding for that program last year. It's an essential program for our communities to upgrade their sewage treatment pit plants in order to maintain the water quality in our rivers and streams and in Long Island Sound, and it also creates exactly the types of jobs in construction and engineering that we desperately need to be creating and maintaining right now. So we especially need 150 million dollars in revenue bonds. We'd like to get an increase in GO bonds but we desperately need the revenue bonds in order to be able to leverage federal monies. Thank you very much.

REP. STAPLES: Thank you very much. Any questions? Yes, Representative Giannaros.

REP. GIANNAROS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and how are you?

Just to get one point across that perhaps people may be missing when it comes to environmental investments, even though you heard me challenging the (inaudible) model which is something different. In relation to investment, you get x amount of production as a result of investing in efficient energy production, but isn't there another positive spill over effect that we normally don't capture in those numbers, and that is the reduction of pollution itself has what we call a positive externality, positive impact on society as a whole?

101
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: I would certainly agree with that and actually point to one specific example. We've got some shellfish beds along the coast that are currently closed because of water pollution. And if we were able to clean up those areas, clean up the water -- which improving our sewage treatment systems would make it -- get us an important step towards doing that, we could then open up those beds to the shellfish industry and hire more -- employ more shell fisher people, if I can use that word, shell fisher people. I'm trying to be gender neutral here.

REP. GIANNAROS: There's another positive effect on us would be that the waters would be cleaner, we can use it for swimming, in a more effective way for all types of entertainment, I was going to use -- but recreation.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: Right. Yes, absolutely.

REP. GIANNAROS: So those are the kinds of things that models don't capture; is that correct?

DAVID SUTHERLAND: I would say so. It's pretty tough for them to capture that lots of times.

REP. GIANNAROS: Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you.

REP. STAPLES: Thank you very much for your testimony. Jeff Nichols, Caroline Humphries.

JEFFREY NICHOLS: Good afternoon, my name is Jeffrey Nichols and I am the executive director of the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. I'm here today to share our successful experience working with CL&P's Small Business Energy Advantage Program and the

SB484

131
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

Optimum presently employs 25 people with more than half having attained a masters or doctorate level of education. We have also attracted employees from both in state as well as out of state, as well as tradespeople as well. I believe that the message of what I have to offer you today has already been spoken to today. You have my submitted comments and I don't think there's a need to duplicate that so I'll just refer you to my testimony and echo the comments that were entered a few a moments ago by FuelCell Energy as well.

SENATOR DAILY: I have your testimony right in my hand. Very cogent. Are there questions? Thank you very much for your time.

MATTHEW SPECK: Thank you.

SENATOR DAILY: Claire Phelan followed by Craig McCurdy, Tony Eason and Randy Siminoff.

CLAIRE PHELAN: Good afternoon all.

SENATOR DAILY: Good afternoon.

CLAIRE PHELAN: I'm Claire Phelan. I'm chairperson of the board of directors of Bridges, a non profit community service. I'm here today to ask you to support Senate Bill 25, Section 298 and not to repeal it.

Bridges provides essential mental health and addiction services that impacts the lives and welfare of many adults and children in our south central region. They come to us looking for the professional and the caring help that we provide. I'm a lifelong resident of Milford and I remember when Bridges was founded in 1957. I remember the humble beginnings of the

Milford Mental Health Center that has now grown and embraced a comprehensive range of services and has become a bridge, giving hope for a restored life of thousands of special needs individuals in our community.

The need for additional professional staff grew and appropriate medical space has become crucial as the number of clients we now serve reached 5,000 this past year. Over 70 percent of our operating funds come from state grants through contracts with DCF, CDS, DEMIS and DSS. We are a working partner with the state of Connecticut, providing essential and critical health care services.

The serious lack of space has been problematic to Bridges board directors and has been addressed in the planning council for a number of years. We have found that renting or leasing space is straining and not cost effective. It well exceeds our bonding requests that we have asked you for. It is also problematic because it decentralizes the services and results in duplicate efforts and resources to administer and coordinate care for our clients.

We are pleased that the state has already recognized our growth as well as the need to expand, and has already invested in the property. We have requested a \$600,000 bonding grant to develop the property adjacent to our facility. It's a prudent project, cost effective, essential and also critical to Bridges' ability to continue providing behavioral health care services to our area residents. It is a sound investment not only in our health care system, but also in the promotion of local construction jobs and community investments, which is so urgently

133
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

needed in our community today. And I thank you for hearing.

SENATOR DAILY: Thank you very much for your testimony. Are there questions of Ms. Phelan? We did hear other things about Bridges today, too, so thank you.

CLAIRE PHELAN: Thank you.

SENATOR DAILY: Craig McCurdy followed by Tony Eason, Randy Siminoff and Maria Batista.

CRAIG MCCURDY: Good afternoon, thanks for the opportunity to speak with you. I'm here to talk against Bill S.B. 484 on securitization of energy funds. I'm the owner of Environmental Systems Corporation. We're a 40 year old privately owned business.

Last year our revenues were approximately 19 million dollars. We employ a little over a hundred people and about 30 percent of our employees are working on energy solution type products. We are building automation contractors, we're engineers that build the buildings, typically large commercial, industrial or municipal buildings to determine what can be done to save energy. We work very closely with the utility companies to secure incentive funds to move these projects ahead. We currently have about five million dollars worth of work in process and another five million dollars worth of work which is being proposed. If the energy fund is taken away it will drastically affect our company, our growth and our ability to keep these folks on board. The average salary for people in our energy solutions group is 82,000 a year, as most are degreed engineers.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE
REVENUE
AND BONDING
PART 3
560 – 837**

2010

California and we know that doesn't work well there. But the other states, they're not all having that same kind of difficulty. And one other thing, OFA has always said that they couldn't give us a revenue estimate, there's not proof that it generates more taxes, that's why it's called a tax fairness bill, in an effort to be fair. But your experience with the other states besides California in terms of lawsuits and that sort of difficulty, what would that be?

BONNIE STEWART: It's the same. It's my understanding from speaking with our members that are in states where there is unitary tax that the litigation is far greater than Connecticut's. Actually, Connecticut has very few cases being litigated in terms of the corporation business tax, there's a lot with sales tax, where there's a lot more ambiguity, but not with the corporation/business tax. That's not to say that there's not any. There's obviously some things that come up in audit all the time that you'll see end up in litigation. But unitary states have high -- far higher litigation than states that don't have unitary.

SENATOR DAILY: Other questions of Ms. Stewart?
Thank you very much. You're not as pale as you were last week.

Tony Bialecki followed by Alejandro Melendez-Cooper, Guy west, Rick Sodermon and Ted DeSantos.

ANTHONY BIALECKI: Good afternoon, my name is Tony Bialecki, deputy director of economic development for the city of New Haven and I'm here today on behalf of the city. Mayor John DeStefano has written testimony and that was

SB25

submitted regarding three bonding appropriations that would be eliminated through Senate Bill 25.

The first of those is a grant made that was directed from DECD to the city of New Haven for downtown economic development projects and a biotech corridor that's in Section 40 of the bill. And I want to emphasize that this was one of the top priority development projects we had going into this year and next year. This project -- many of you may have heard about Downtown Crossing -- last year the General Assembly provided a conveyance bill, which dedicated what we call Parcel D, which is the termination of Route 34 as you come into the city and you go into the Air Rights Garage.

Parcel D was set aside for the development of what we call 100 College Street. 100 College Street is a -- one of the first projects that would be taking place, it would be closed down, that section of Route 34 and it's a ready to go project. The project is ready to constructed. The developer's representative will speak in a few minutes.

This is a 400,000 square foot lab and office building. Tenants are ready to occupy the space, the tenants from out of state, a portion of them. The project would immediately provide up to 1,600 construction jobs over the next two years and it would provide 960 permanent jobs. Well, good paying jobs that would be located right in the -- we call it the Medical District area. Winstanley, who is the developer, has over two million square feet of office and lab space in the state of Connecticut and they invest -- is in New Haven already and been very successful, very dedicated to promoting economic development in the state.

The important thing about this money is there was this (inaudible) grant, which is a federal grant the city and -- through the state, applied for from the federal government, which was going to provide approximately 40 million dollars of funding for infrastructure improvements so that if we close down the highway there, which this building would be one of the buildings that goes upon -- that infrastructure improvements. The feds did not fund that grant nor did they fund any of the state transportation grants as you know. So what we've been doing is trying to look around as to how we can put together that infrastructure money and again, there's 5.8 million dollars that was the balance of funding that's in this section of the bill that would be eliminated and that's what we're asking to use.

The other is a Miller Industrial park and is in an industrial area of the city which is in the written testimony. Thank you.

SENATOR DAILY: Thank you. Are there questions for Mr. Bialecki? Thank you very much for your time.

Alejandro Melendez-Cooper followed by Guy West, Chris Soderman, Ted DeSantos.

ALEJANDRO MELENDEZ-COOPER: Thank you, Senator Daily and members of the committee. I am Alejandro Melendez-Cooper and I'm the director of the Community Health Center in New London and Groton. And I am here today to speak in the name of the Health Center and about the Senate Bill 25, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.

The bill would deauthorize two projects. One for New London for one million dollars for expansion of our health club facility and we see in that facility 11,940 patients that call the medical center there their medical home in three areas; medical, dental and mental health. And that expansion would allow us, actually, to increase that number by 2,000. and we all know that these days that we are having more and more patients coming through the health centers for health care.

And the other expansion or actually relocation would be for the city of Groton that \$500,000, that will allow us to expand and go to another facility because the one that we are currently located in is crowded, small, and we cannot hire more providers and the demand is high.

Our case load is growing through the roof and we really feel that due to circumstances, this is actually the moment that we need the most of your help to actually be able to continue providing the services. And continue our mission which is health care is a right not a privilege. Thank you.

SENATOR DAILY: Thank you very much. I know it's good work you do there. Are there any questions? Thank you.

Guy West followed by Rich Soderman, Ted DeSantos and Roger Smith.

GUY WEST: Hello, Madam Chair, committee members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to come before you. I'm here as an advocate and in support of S.B. 485. And I'm here just as a concerned citizen and as a tax payer in the

180
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

REP. MEGNA: Right.

RICHARD SODERMAN: But the state of Connecticut is a large consumer -

REP. MEGNA: Yes.

RICHARD SODERMAN: -- and so when you think about it, you're only thinking, well, maybe a large business would be paid this, but the state of Connecticut is also a large user and they pay quite a bit of this, too. So it's an equal cents per kilowatt hour charge.

REP. MEGNA: And that would also apply towards some of the municipalities, too, correct?

RICHARD SODERMAN: That's correct.

REP. MEGNA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR DAILY: Are there any other questions?
Thanks very much for your testimony and your time.

Ted Desantos followed by Roger Smith, Robert Neal, Robert Shea, Gordon Schies and Chris Johnson.

TED DESANTOS: Honorable committee members, I'm submitting testimony on behalf of S.B. 25, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES. In particular, the five million, eight hundred thirty-three thousand under request by the city of New Haven. This funding would be used in support of the development of 100 College Street project, which was referenced by Mr. Tony Bialecki a few minutes ago. This is a rendering of the 100

181
tmj/gbr FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

College Street project, which is an expressway tear down and a smart growth project for the city of New Haven.

My name is Ted DeSantos, I'm here representing Winstanley Enterprises, a major developer and property owner in the state of Connecticut. They own and operate over two million square feet of commercial development, lab and industrial space including over a million square feet in New Haven itself.

We've been working with Winstanley Enterprises over the last 18 months on projects such as a 300,000 square foot office building in Science Park, which was previously vacant. Today it stands at 90 percent occupied.

Three months ago, we finished the environmental clean up and conversion of the former Winchester Repeating Arms Corporation site, which is a 250,000 square former manufacturing conversion to lab, office and commercial space. Also in Science Park, we have recently completed construction of a 1200 car parking garage in support of these two projects I just mentioned.

Last year the General Assembly authorized the conveyance of the property between the Air Rights Garage and College Street, upon which the 100 College Street development will sit. This project will build off the success and strategic location of the Winstanley 300 George Street building, which is on the adjacent parcel.

At a half million square feet it is the largest office building in the city of New Haven and this property exists in a place in between that large office building and the Yale Medical

School campus as well as Yale-New Haven Hospital, and the new investment in the Smilow Cancer Center.

The project itself consists of approximately 440,000 square feet of office, lab, research and development space. It is a biotechnology project and an adjacent parking garage estimated to cost 120 to 160 million dollars, will create 960 permanent jobs as well as over 1,200 construction jobs while it's under construction.

Despite the current economy, Winnstanely Enterprises is fully ready to move forward. They'd like to have the project under construction later this year. We've been working extensively with the city and two state agencies, Department of Transportation, Department of Economic and Community Development over the past six months to resolve a consensus transportation solution for the project. And the bonding in question under S.B. 25 is meant to be allocated for the enabling transportation projects, which allow the site to be prepared for the construction of the 440,000 square foot building.

SENATOR DAILY: Thanks for your time and your testimony and the great pictures. Are there questions for Mr. DeSantos? Thank you again.

Roger Smith followed by Robert Neal, Robert Shea, Gordon Schies and Chris Johnson. Robert Neale?

ROBERT NEAL: Good afternoon. I'm glad I wrote that instead of "Good morning." It's my first time here and I do want to say -- even though he had to step out -- is that as a citizen of Brookfield and western Connecticut, it was

QB484



A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM INC.

949 Bridgeport Avenue • Milford, CT 06460 • 203-878-6365 • www.bridgesmilford.org

**Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee Hearing
Testimony by Barry Kasdan Pres/CEO
3/22/10**

SB #25

**Section 298 – An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements,
Transportation and Other Purposes.**

GRANT IN AID TO BRIDGES OF MILFORD CONNECTICUT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000

My name is Barry Kasdan Pres/CEO of Bridges...A Community Support System Inc. I am here this morning to implore you to support the above referenced bonding grant to Bridges. In the SB 25 our bonding is slated to be repealed. This is a critical and essential community project that impacts the lives and welfare of thousands of adults and children in our region. These are difficult times but this is an investment that will save the state money and assure that grant funds received by Bridges continue to fund desperately needed Mental Health Services and are not diverted to cover a capital debt service and a growing dependence on commercial rents. In addition is will complete the 2nd phase of a project that the state funded to acquire the property we are now ready to develop.

Bridges is a non-profit Mental Health & Addiction services agency serving Orange, Milford, West Haven and 19 surrounding communities. Founded in 1957 Bridges has grown into a major Behavioral Health Care agency funded predominantly by the State of Connecticut through contracts with DCF, DDS, DMHAS and DSS, providing a comprehensive range of essential community services to a population of high risk and at risk Adults, Children and Families. Over 70% our operating funds comes from state grants. Most of the services we provide are targeted to populations of adults and children with highly specialized needs that the state has responsibility for. Contracting with Bridges allows thousands of special needs individuals to remain in their community, attend school, work and stay with their families.

Some of the specialized services the state contracts for include:

- Young Adult Services -DMHAS
- Local Mental Health Authority – DMHAS
- Vocational, Case management, Social Rehabilitation, Residential, Out-patient Psychiatric Treatment –DMHAS, DDS
- Emergency Psychiatric Services & Respite – DMHAS
- Psychiatric Services for Children (Child Guidance) – DCF
- Lead agency for DCF Community Kid Care initiative
- Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service (IICAPS) - DCF
- Intensive Family Reunification – DCF
- EMPS – Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (for children and families) – DCF
- Enhanced Care Clinic (Husky families & Children) – DSS
- Smoking Cessation – DPH statewide grant administered by CommuniCare (Bridges is a Partner)



A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM INC.

949 Bridgeport Avenue • Milford, CT 06460 • 203-878-6365 • www.bridgesmilford.org

Federal Grants Servicing behavioral health needs of our area residents.

- Department of Education – Federal substance abuse prevention grant for children and youth
- SAMHSA grant is 1 of 13 awarded nationally for Integration of Primary Health Care with Mental Health. Bridges is lead agency for CommuniCare.

In 2009 over 5,000 people accessed one or more of our services.

In short we are a working partner with the State of Connecticut providing essential and critical healthcare services. With 2 new initiatives in 2009 Smoking Cessation & Primary Health Care we have expanded our services beyond our traditional service area that now covers both regional and statewide initiatives that are at the cutting edge of our field.

Bridges, its Board of Directors, and the greater Milford community have made a commitment not only to its area residents, but to the State of Connecticut by responding to the pressing human service needs that the state has responsibility to address. More than many other non-profits Bridges has been willing to meet this challenge by contracting with the state to provide care for some of its most disabled and fragile populations of children, families and adults. It has done that with an abiding sense of commitment to its own mission along with the belief that every community must become part of a larger healthcare system in order to assure cost effective and quality care for all.

This request for bonding funds is part of the contract and partnership that will assure we can fulfill the service needs that the state contracts with Bridges to provide.

I am attaching a full explanation of the project and why it was approved in July of 2007, and sustained again retained in the 2009 budget as part of the Bonding legislation. For the sake of brevity I have attached a detailed accounting of the important points and data that support the critical importance of this project.

On behalf of all our current clients and all future clients that will be served, we thank you for your attention and support of this request.

Bridges sought to secure bonding money for the acquisition of a piece of property at 925 Bridgeport Ave, adjacent to one that we acquired almost 5 years ago, 941 Bridgeport Ave.

The original plans were to develop 941 for expansion and parking. We did extensive property planning that included new facilities construction and parking. The projected costs were well over 3 million dollars. The picture started changing when the adjacent property 925 became available with a building that was usable as is. The price there was around \$1,000,000. So it appeared that would be an even better option, at far less cost than new construction and with additional property for future expansion.

We were unsuccessful in securing bonding in 2006 to purchase that property. When we tried again in 2007 the owners of the 925 property had many changes occurring in their plans, and acquisition was now uncertain within a reasonable time frame. We developed a strategy on an approach that would make dollars available for acquisition and expansion to cover both possibilities. Should the 925 no longer be available we would build and expand on 941 Bridgeport Ave. We were successful in securing the \$600,000 bonding grant, far less than the initial request for \$1,000,000. It was to be administered through DMHAS.

At this time the acquisition of 925 is no longer feasible and we can no longer leave 941 standing idle. It has a smaller building than our original plans. We have reviewed our situation and significantly restructured our plans that involve the total rehabilitation of an existing 3,000 SF structure on 941 (925 had over 9,000 sf of usable space.) We have developed plans for that structure that include a future 2nd floor expansion. The current plans also involve the development of the property for parking and needed drainage. It is important to note that the existing structure will deteriorate if allowed to stand idle any longer. One final note regarding the delay in getting this project moving. An environmental problem existed from a leaking oil tank on the property which has now been fully remediated and will allow development and construction to proceed without complications. A 2nd delay occurred when the Governor wiped out many non-profit bonding packages a few years back, including Bridges'. We successfully worked with this committee and our area legislators to have the request reinstated a year later.

SUMMARY OF PRESSING NEEDS THAT SUPPORT THE IMMEDIACY OF THIS PROJECT

1. Depending on activities and weather, for any given week 600-800 people in addition to staff access our facilities.
2. Main offices at 949 Bridgeport Avenue used to capacity: Monday –Friday 8 AM – 9 PM Friday 8 AM – 5 PM
3. 40 staff and interns currently cohabitating office space – at least half of whom need dedicated space
4. We reduced the graduate social work training program in half due to insufficient space to house students
5. At least 6 treatment groups, including day programs, are on hold due to space shortage
6. Board of Directors no longer meet at our office due to space shortage
7. On Monday evenings both Adult & Children waiting room areas are converted into group rooms for Prevention programs.
8. Part-time personnel, including Psychiatrists and Nursing staff do not have dedicated offices.
9. Medical Records room can no longer handle record storage, requiring rental of outside storage.
10. With expansion Bridges could grow services and generate increased revenue with new treatment and day programming.
11. Current volume of requests for service force 30 individuals per week onto waiting lists or are referred out due to lack of resources including adequate space for services.
12. Two recently awarded grants, have created increased demands on existing space to deliver Smoking Cessation services funded by DPH and integration of Primary Health Care services into our mental health care system funded by a federal grant from SAMHSA
13. Due to space shortage, Bridges currently leases offsite offices for numerous programs: 2,800 sq. ft. in Milford and West Haven. Annual rental costs = \$41,130

Bridges....A Community Support System Inc.

Attachment

Project Detail

Background

Bridges purchased of 941 Bridgeport Avenue (adjoining property to our main site at 949 Bridgeport Avenue). This was accomplished with State Bonding in 2005.

For over 10 years Bridges was using the next door property for overflow parking at no cost. Bridges had a compelling need to prevent the loss of that critical parking space to another party along with expanding professional office space.

The 3,000 sq. ft. building on that site was an important need, offering the potential to expand facilities to meet a dramatic growing demand for services.

Over 3 years ago, the Connecticut Center for Child Development, owners of 925 which are adjacent to 941, approached us about purchasing their property. They were looking for a larger piece of property and facility to accommodate their growing program.

The possibility of acquiring the next door property became most attractive, in view of our growing space needs and the fact that the facility was in move-in usable condition.

A review of our current situation addresses the critical facilities needs that have developed along with the intervening events.

Main Offices and Facilities

1. 949 – 957 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Bridges.
 - 2 buildings
 - 949 Bridgeport Avenue – Main office 18,500 sq. ft.
 - 957 Bridgeport Avenue – Social Rehab program and Open Door Social Club – 3,000 sq. ft.
 - Parking for 50 + cars.
 - Both buildings fully occupied
 - Parking lot fully occupied by Bridges staff, clients, visitors and agency vehicles
 - Bridges employs over 160 full and part-time staff
2. 941 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Bridges (as of January 27, 2006)
 - Parking lot fully occupied by Bridges staff, clients and visitors (overflow from 949-957 Bridgeport Avenue)
 - 1 building 3,000 sq. ft. – unoccupied. Could be renovated or demolished for a larger structure attached to main building.
 - Current space needs indicate 9,000+ SF needed to accommodate current and future growth.

Property that was under Consideration

1. 925 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Connecticut Center for Child Development
 - 1 building 9,500+ sq. ft. for offices, classrooms and meeting rooms
 - Building currently meets code and usable as is.
 - 35+ parking spaces
 - Property value placed at 1 million dollars, in property appraisal done by Bridges in January 2006
 - Current owners were in negotiations to purchase new and larger property and facility in Milford.
 - As of January 2007, they have secured a new site and planned to sell this property.
 - Since Bridges was unable to secure needed bonding for the acquisition of this property, plans were on hold and became less feasible due to changing plans of CCDC.
 - As of the March 2010 the CCDC has determined that it will no longer sell the property since its own space needs have grown.

Previous Site Planning and facilities development.

With the likelihood that 929 Bridgeport Ave would not be an option we secured formal site planning and a comprehensive review of our space needs from Antinozzi Associates of Stratford Ct.. This resulted in:

- Originally a creative architectural plan indicated that an addition could be added to the existing facilities at 949 Bridgeport extending out over the 941 site.
- The new facilities would help cut operating costs by centralizing access and waiting areas for clients, thus maximizing use of clerical and support staff.
- In addition it would provide for a new centralized medical records facility, group rooms and urgently needed space for specialized day programs, Adolescent IOP treatment programs, and prevention & education classes and expanded to counseling and treatment interview rooms that would help generate increased revenues.
- Cost projection indicated that the total project would have cost from 2-3million dollars, which included the necessary rehab of space in our 949 Bridgeport Ave main site.
- The project included development of parking and a new elevated 2nd floor addition on 941 Bridgeport Ave. connected to our current structure.
- These costs became prohibitive and not a wise direction in the developing fiscal environment, moving us to redevelop plans around the current bonding grant of \$600,000 for facility expansion.

Current Situation & Plans

- Develop 941 Bridgeport Ave property including site development, parking, and renovation of existing structure to immediately add 3,000 square feet of office space attached to main building at 949 Bridgeport Ave.
- Engineering study has been completed on 941 building verifying that it is structural sound. A complete renovation of the building could accommodate the infrastructure to handle a 2nd story that would expand the current space by over 2000 SF.
- All building and parking plans meet city zoning and property development requirements.
- Initial plans are complete and we are contracting for Design and Construction Documents.

Summary Points

- Bridges has been serving the greater Milford, Orange, and West Haven area for over 50 years. It has grown into a major health care provider, serving over 5000 individual annually in our region, serving some 22 towns for emergency and home based services.
- With over 160 staff Bridges provides critically needed mental health and addictions services to a growing a population of adults and children in our region.
- Bridges' operating budget exceeds \$11,000,000 over 70% is state grants and contracts.
- The population of Milford Orange and West Haven is close to 135,000 residents.
- A \$600,000 bonding investment equals about \$4.50 per capita for this core service area.
- To rent the needed professional medical space over the next few years could reach \$180,000 per year.
- In 5years that would well exceed by hundreds of thousands the bonding request.
- Those rental dollars would be covered by grant funds, thus drawn away from direct services.
- **Leasing space is very problematic since it will decentralize services and result in duplicative efforts and resources to administer and coordinate care for thousands of clients.**
- If we are forced to rent space this would become a fiscal albatross on Bridges and State grant dollars.
- Bridges has been a partner with the State of Connecticut for over 50 years delivering care in a cost effective manner to some of our neediest and at risk population.

The proposed property development is prudent, cost effective, essential and critical to Bridges' ability to continue providing Behavioral HealthCare services to our area residents. It is a plan that has been in the pipeline for a number of years with State dollars already invested in the property. It is a sound investment not only in our healthcare system but the promotion of local construction, jobs and community investment which is so urgently needed in today's economy.

This is ready to go and we have already spent considerable time and money on its development. Too many services along with the wellbeing of thousands of adults and children are dependent on its completion.



**CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE OF
MUNICIPALITIES**

900 Chapel St., 9th Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-2807
Phone (203) 498-3000 • Fax (203) 562-8314 • www.ccm-ct.org

THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

SB 25, "AA Authorizing and Adjusting Bond of the State For Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes."

Among other things, this bill would reduce and cancel unissued bond fund authorizations.

We urge you to scrutinize each recommendation to ensure that no project that would be of significant assistance to a municipality would be negatively affected by these cancelations.

Thank you for your consideration.

##

If you have any questions, please contact Gian-Carl Casa or Bob Labanara of CCM, at (203) 498-3000.

Community Health Centers, Inc.
Testimony on SB 25
March 22, 2010

Sen. Daily, Rep. Staples and members of the committee:

My name is Alejandro Melendez-Cooper. I am site director for Community Health Centers, Inc., in Southeast Connecticut. I am representing CHC today to offer comments about Senate Bill 25, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.*

The bill would deauthorize two projects that were approved for bonding by the General Assembly in 2007. These include \$1.5 million for renovations and new construction of CHC facilities in New London and Groton.

The New London project (\$1 million) would allow renovations at our site located at One Shaws Cove. It will enable CHC to add dental seats, medical exam rooms and an area for behavioral health. We can accommodate thousands of additional visits annually with these improvements.

The same holds for our Groton site. We currently rent 4,000 square feet of space; it is very cramped and we outgrew it years ago. The \$500,000 will enable us to relocate and serve many more patients each year.

We are seeing our caseloads go through the roof. More and more patients are coming through our doors each day. We don't have the space right now at either facility to meet their needs.

I would ask that you not deauthorize these two projects. They are critical to CHC's ability to fulfill our core mission—that health care is a right, *not* a privilege. Thank you.

Prepared Testimony of the City of New Haven
Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and
Bonding
Public Hearing of March 22, 2010

City of New Haven
Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

SB 25 (Governors Bill No. 25) An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds for the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

Senator Daily, Representatives Staples and members of the Committee, my name is Tony Bialecki and I am the Director of the Office of Economic Development for the City of New Haven. I appear before you on behalf of Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., urging your support for funds previously appropriated by the General Assembly to New Haven for economic development.

A balance of \$5,833,000 remains from the original authorization identified in this Bill under Sec.40 as a Grant-in-aid to the City for various uses including improvements to downtown and a biotechnology corridor within the City. These funds are needed now to assist in the city's top development project known as 100 College Street – a project that could be under construction this year. As many of you know the City, the State Department of Transportation and the State Dept of Economic and Community Development have been working on a project we are calling the Downtown Crossing which when complete involves the abandonment of the end of RT34 Connector terminating at the Air Rights Garage allowing for the development of 10 acres of land estimated to create 3,216 jobs and \$308 million in economic output in addition to new state sales and income tax. The balance of funding left in this original authorization would be used towards site and infrastructure improvements in part to accommodate realigning RT34 traffic.

Last year the General Assembly approved the conveyance of a portion of this section of RT34 for Parcel D to build 100 College Street.

100 College Street is a 400,000 square foot office and laboratory facility with ground floor retail and a 900 car garage being developed by Winstanley Enterprises estimated to cost between \$120-160 million dollars. This is a shovel ready project, planning and design are well underway and the developer has tenants who want to locate in this facility. Immediately this development would provide an estimated 1,263 construction jobs over the next two years. In a State that has seen 25% unemployment in the construction trades this is a critically important project. We have been fortunate in New Haven over the last several years to have kept construction workers and companies busy with some of the largest construction projects in decades – we all have a responsibility to these workers and their families to keep them working.

This project though provides more than interim construction jobs – based on updated economic analysis this new facility will create 960 good new jobs,

millions in new sales and income tax for the state and desperately needed new property taxes for the City of New Haven. Winstanley Enterprises, owns and manages over one million square feet of office and laboratory facilities throughout the State of Connecticut. They are just completing a major renovation of two buildings in Science Park in New Haven and a new parking garage all with new tenants. I urge the Committee to allow the balance of these funds to be directed towards the 100 College Street development so this project may get under construction this year.

Prepared Testimony of the City of New Haven
Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding in support of
Tweed New Haven Regional Airport



City of New Haven
 John DeStefano, Jr.
 Mayor

Tony Bialecki

RE: SB 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and members of the Committee, my name is Tony Bialecki and I am the Director of the Office of Business Development for the City of New Haven. I appear before you on behalf of Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., urging your support for Tweed New Haven Regional Airport.

As you know, Tweed is one of only two Connecticut airports certified as Class I by the Federal Aviation Administration and we are proud to have US Airways as its main tenant, providing five scheduled weekday flights out of New Haven. We working hard to position Tweed as a regional-significant airport and have made important strides of late.

Last year, Mayor DeStefano, Jr. and East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon together with state legislators and the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority reached agreement on the "Time is Now" program for responsible airport growth and development. Since the agreement was signed, Tweed completed over \$30 million in infrastructure investments, including new runway safety areas, taxiway improvements and upgrades to the main terminal. The Tweed bond is essential to next phase of work, which includes the removal of off-airport obstructions and the implementation of "good neighbor" programs.

In specific terms, we urge the Committee to reject and remove Section 42 of SB 25, as this provision seeks to deauthorize a \$5.0 million capital bond which is designated for these renovations, improvements and safety programs at Tweed Airport. Even in difficult economic times, please consider – as we do – the economic development value of Tweed New Haven Airport and support its efforts.

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, March 22, 2010.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Tony Bialecki
 Director
 Office of Business Development

TWEED

155 Burr Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06512
P 203-466-8833 F 203-466-1199

**Testimony Before the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Opposing a Portion of SB 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting
Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and
Other Purposes.**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and members of the Committee, my name is Lori Hoffman-Soares and I am the Airport Manager of Tweed New Haven Regional Airport. I appear before you today representing Mark Volchek, the Chairman of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority, who is out of the country. The Airport Authority respectfully requests that you reject and remove Section 42 of SB 25, which has very serious impact on Tweed.

As you may know, Tweed is one of only two Connecticut airports certified as Class I by the Federal Aviation Administration. For the past ten years, the State has shared the cost of many airport improvements, in recognition that Tweed has State-wide economic development value.

Tweed is the only transportation asset in the state run by a regional board of directors. The City of New Haven, Town of East Haven, and South Central Regional Council of Governments all support the Airport Authority in providing scheduled air service in a safe, responsible, and environmentally sensitive manner. The Transportation Strategy Board recognized this role by endorsing a strategy of support for commercial air service at both Tweed and Bradley.

We are asking the Committee to reject Section 42 of the bill, as this provision would repeal a \$5.0 million authorization for improvements and safety programs at Tweed. The \$5.0 million in capital bonds was approved by Special Act 01-2, Section 9(d)(7).

The Airport Authority achieved an important goal in 2009 with signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Mayors of New Haven and East Haven, endorsed in writing by five legislators. The MOA positioned Tweed to seek additional air service to provide more choices to Southern Connecticut travelers.

I am submitting today a letter signed by all the signatories to the 2009 MOA, agreeing that retaining the previously-approved \$5M in State bond funds is essential. The MOA proposes a variety of aviation improvements and community benefits to neighborhoods around the airport. Now that we have regional agreement on moving forward, the funding is more essential than ever.

When appropriated by the Bond Commission, these funds will be used for the following elements specified in the MOA. A portion of the funds may also be spent on airport safety and code compliance items, as required.

- a. Purchase an abandoned right of way at the south end of the main runway to install new instrument landing lights needed to grow scheduled air service.
- b. Remove obstructions in the approach zones at each end of the main runway, in accordance with FAA requirements and the approved Airport Master Plan.
- c. Plan and implement a Residential Benefits Program for Airport neighbors.

We join in urging you to retain the authorization for these \$5M bond funds because they implement an agreement between two municipalities and strengthen one of the few regionally-managed transportation assets in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.



155 Burr Street
New Haven, CT 06512
P203-466-8833 F203-466-1199

March 4, 2010

State Representative Cameron C. Staples
State Representative Carlo Leone
Legislative Office Building, Room 3704
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representatives Staples and Leone:

We write in support of the need to retain authorization for \$5.0 million in bond funds previously approved by the General Assembly for improvements and safety programs at Tweed New Haven Regional Airport.

The Airport Authority achieved an important goal in 2009 with signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Mayors of New Haven and East Haven, endorsed in writing by five local legislators. The MOA allowed the Federally-mandated Runway Safety Area project to go forward, positioning Tweed to seek additional air service to provide more choices to Southern Connecticut air travelers.

The City of New Haven, the Town of East Haven, and the South Central Regional Council of Governments all support the Airport Authority in its mission of providing scheduled air service in a safe, responsible, and environmentally sensitive manner.

The parties to the MOA agree that retaining the previously-approved \$5M in State bond funds is essential to achieving its objectives. The MOA proposes a variety of aviation improvements and community benefits to neighborhoods around the airport. We are not requesting *new* bond funds; we ask only that the existing \$5M in bond funds be retained in order to carry out the commitments in the MOA.

Tweed plays a vital role in the region's economic development. In fact, Tweed is one of just three Class I FAA-certified facilities in Connecticut. We are proud that US Airways provides daily scheduled service to Philadelphia and its 200 connecting destinations.

When appropriated by the Bond Commission, these bond funds will be used for the following elements specified in the MOA. A portion of the funds may also be spent on airport safety and code compliance items, as required.

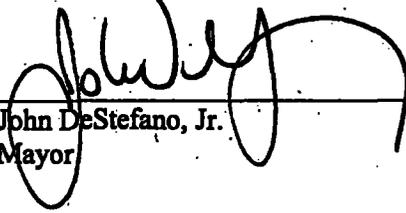
- a. Purchase an abandoned right of way at the south end of the main runway to install new instrument landing lights needed to grow scheduled air service.
- b. Remove obstructions in the approach zones at each end of the main runway, in accordance with FAA requirements and the approved Airport Master Plan.

c. Plan and implement a Residential Benefits Program for Airport neighbors.

We join in urging you to retain the authorization for these \$5M bond funds because they implement an agreement between two municipalities and strengthen one of the few regionally-managed transportation assets in Connecticut.

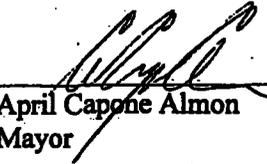
Sincerely yours,

CITY OF NEW HAVEN


John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

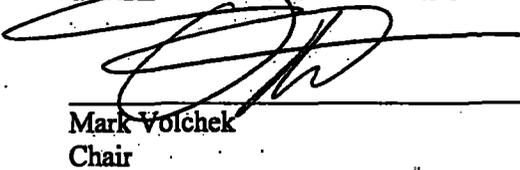
3/4/10
Date

TOWN OF EAST HAVEN


April Capone Almon
Mayor

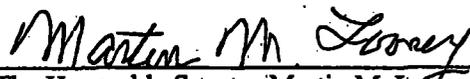
3/4/10
Date

TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY

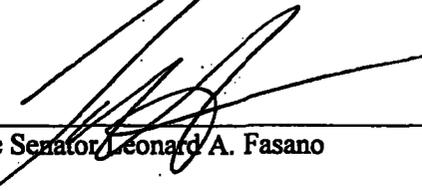

Mark Volchek
Chair

3/4/10
Date

STATE LEGISLATIVE PARTNERS


The Honorable Senator Martin M. Looney
11th District

3/4/10
Date


The Honorable Senator Leonard A. Fasano
34th District

3/4/10
Date


The Honorable Representative Michael P. Lawlor
99th District

3/5/10
Date

Robert W. Megna

3-5-2010

The Honorable Representative Robert W. Megna
97th District

Date

V. J. Candelora

3-5-10

The Honorable Representative Vincent J. Candelora
86th District

Date

CC:
M. Jodi Rell, Governor
Robert L. Genuario, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management
New Haven Delegation

News > Metro

Bipartisan pact marks historic day for Tweed

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

By Mark Zaretsky, Register Staff

HARTFORD — The mayors of New Haven and East Haven stood side by side with Tweed New Haven Regional Airport officials and legislators from both parties Monday to announce a historic, bipartisan agreement.

The pact ends four decades of wrangling over the airport's future and will allow Tweed to complete safety improvements and ultimately expand service while limiting future physical growth, they said.

"Today's agreement marks the beginning of a new period of cooperation between the Tweed airport authority, East Haven and New Haven," said Mark Volchek, chairman of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority.

"This is a great regional initiative — bipartisan," said New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr., pointing out that Gov. M. Jodi Rell is looking to support regional initiatives at a time when state money is tight.

"There are lots of 'thank you's' to everyone around," said DeStefano, although he reserved special thanks for East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon.

"Now East Haven has a voice — and that was something that was important to me," said Capone Almon after the announcement. "This is a very good day for East Haven."

She was joined for the announcement by East Haven Republican Board of Education member John Finkle — the town's likely GOP mayoral candidate — and East Haven Republican Town Chairman Carl Ruggiero in a sign of unity that sources said was important in getting the town to agree.

DeStefano and Volchek said they expect the agreement to have a positive effect on what is now a request for \$2 million in state operating funds for Tweed — up from an initial \$1.5 million in a year when Rell removed Tweed's \$570,000 subsidy from the budget she submitted.

Other speakers included state Sen. Leonard Fasano, R-North Haven, state Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, D-New Haven, state Rep. Michael Lawlor, D-East Haven, and Anthony Rescigno, president of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. State reps. Robert Megna, D-New Haven, and Vincent Candelora, R-North Branford, also attended, as did New Haven Aldermen Yusuf Shah, D-23, and Migdalia Castro, D-16.

Under the pact, East Haven, New Haven and Tweed will settle litigation over Tweed's federally mandated runway safety area project and complete the project. Tweed's main runway will remain at 5,600 feet, but the safety areas and removal of trees and other obstructions — in which East Haven now will be an active partner in accomplishing — will allow planes to use the full runway, instead of just 5,200 feet, as is now the case.

Future service growth will be capped at 30 departures a day, 180,000 boardings a year, six commercial airline service counters and the existing 700 parking spaces. The greatest number of departures Tweed has ever had was 21, and the highest number of boardings was about 135,000, officials said.

It also calls for a "good neighbor" program that will include sound attenuation, "traffic calming" measures and steps to better protect the environment. Financial benefits for the two host communities will be sought through additional passenger charges and an effort to increase state payment in lieu of taxes benefits to 100 percent.

East Haven, meanwhile, will see its presence on the 14-member, regional Tweed New Haven Airport Authority grow from two members appointed by the town's mayor to four. Any future changes in Tweed's service limits would require a three-quarters vote of the Tweed Authority, which according to Capone Almon, means "you couldn't do it without East Haven."

Fasano called the agreement "monumental" and said what's important about it is that people on both sides were able to put aside their personal biases and do what was best for the region.

"This agreement is very historic," said Looney, who represents Morris Cove neighbors of the airport. "It provides for Tweed to be a viable small airport," he said, emphasizing the three final words.

"This only took 40 years — not bad," said Lawlor, who lives near Tweed and said he "is fine" with it. "The people of East Haven have had some very legitimate concerns."

Capone Almon called the new limits on Tweed's growth "reasonable" and said it's important that "people understand what the parameters are."

Volchek said the agreement will allow Tweed and its host communities "to focus our combined efforts and funding on improving the airport infrastructure and being read to take advantage of an improving economy next year. Tweed can be and will be a driver of economic development," he said.

Mark Zaretsky can be reached at mzaretsky@nhregister.com or 789-5722.

URL: http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/03/17/news/metro/a1_-_tweed_deal.prt

© 2010 nhregister.com, a Journal Register Property

Connecticut Bonding Public Hearing – March 22, 2010
SB #25 / Section 298 – An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

I am Claire Phelan, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Bridges—a non-profit Community Support System. We provide essential mental health and addiction services that impact the lives and welfare of many adults and children in our region. They come to us looking for the professional and caring help we provide.

I am a life-long resident of Milford and remember when Bridges was founded in 1957. I remember the humble beginnings of Milford Mental Health Center that has grown and embraced a comprehensive range of services and has become a Bridge and has given hope for a restored life for thousands of special needs individuals in our community.

The need for additional professional staff grew and appropriate medical space has become crucial as the number of clients we now serve reached 5,000 this past year. Over 70% of our operating funds come from State grants through contracts with DCF, DDS, DMHAS and DSS. We are a working partner with the State of Connecticut providing essential and critical healthcare services.

The serious lack of space has been problematic to the Bridges Board of Directors and has been addressed in the planning process for a number of years. We have found that renting or leasing space is draining and is not cost effective. It well exceeds our bonding request. It is also problematic because it decentralizes services and results in duplicate efforts and resources to administer and coordinate care for our clients.

We appreciate that the State has recognized our growth as well as the need to expand and has already invested in the property.

We have requested a \$600,000 bonding grant to develop property adjacent to our facility. It is a prudent project, cost effective, essential and also critical to Bridges' ability to continue providing behavioral healthcare services to our area residents. It is a sound investment not only in our healthcare system, but also in the promotion of local construction jobs and community investment, which is so urgently needed in today's economy.

Respectfully,



Claire C. Phelan
Resident of Milford and Board Chairperson of Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc.
7 Grove Street, Milford, Connecticut 06460



A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM INC.

949 Bridgeport Avenue • Milford, CT 06460 • 203-878-6365 • www.bridgesmilford.org

**Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee Hearing
Testimony by Barry Kasdan Pres/CEO
3/22/10**

SB #25

**Section 298 – An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements,
Transportation and Other Purposes.**

GRANT IN AID TO BRIDGES OF MILFORD CONNECTICUT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000

My name is Barry Kasdan Pres/CEO of Bridges...A Community Support System Inc. I am here this morning to implore you to support the above referenced bonding grant to Bridges. In the SB 25 our bonding is slated to be repealed. This is a critical and essential community project that impacts the lives and welfare of thousands of adults and children in our region. These are difficult times but this is an investment that will save the state money and assure that grant funds received by Bridges continue to fund desperately needed Mental Health Services and are not diverted to cover a capital debt service and a growing dependence on commercial rents. In addition it will complete the 2nd phase of a project that the state funded to acquire the property we are now ready to develop.

Bridges is a non-profit Mental Health & Addiction services agency serving Orange, Milford, West Haven and 19 surrounding communities. Founded in 1957 Bridges has grown into a major Behavioral Health Care agency funded predominantly by the State of Connecticut through contracts with DCF, DDS, DMHAS and DSS, providing a comprehensive range of essential community services to a population of high risk and at risk Adults, Children and Families. Over 70% our operating funds comes from state grants. Most of the services we provide are targeted to populations of adults and children with highly specialized needs that the state has responsibility for. Contracting with Bridges allows thousands of special needs individuals to remain in their community, attend school, work and stay with their families.

Some of the specialized services the state contracts for include:

- Young Adult Services -DMHAS
- Local Mental Health Authority – DMHAS
- Vocational, Case management, Social Rehabilitation, Residential, Out-patient Psychiatric Treatment –DMHAS, DDS
- Emergency Psychiatric Services & Respite – DMHAS
- Psychiatric Services for Children (Child Guidance) – DCF
- Lead agency for DCF Community Kid Care initiative
- Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Service (IICAPS)- DCF
- Intensive Family Reunification – DCF
- EMPS – Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (for children and families) – DCF
- Enhanced Care Clinic (Husky families & Children) – DSS
- Smoking Cessation – DPH statewide grant administered by CommuniCare (Bridges is a Partner)



949 Bridgeport Avenue • Milford, CT 06460 • 203-878-6365 • www.bridgesmilford.org

Federal Grants Servicing behavioral health needs of our area residents.

- Department of Education – Federal substance abuse prevention grant for children and youth
- SAMHSA grant is 1 of 13 awarded nationally for for Integration of Primary Health Care with Mental Health. Bridges is lead agency for CommuniCare.

In 2009 over 5,000 people accessed one or more of our services.

In short we are a working partner with the State of Connecticut providing essential and critical healthcare services. With 2 new initiatives in 2009 Smoking Cessation & Primary Health Care we have expanded our services beyond our traditional service area that now covers both regional and statewide initiatives that are at the cutting edge of our field.

Bridges, its Board of Directors, and the greater Milford community have made a commitment not only to its area residents, but to the State of Connecticut by responding to the pressing human service needs that the state has responsibility to address. More than many other non-profits Bridges has been willing to meet this challenge by contracting with the state to provide care for some of its most disabled and fragile populations of children, families and adults. It has done that with an abiding sense of commitment to its own mission along with the belief that every community must become part of a larger healthcare system in order to assure cost effective and quality care for all.

This request for bonding funds is part of the contract and partnership that will assure we can fulfill the service needs that the state contracts with Bridges to provide.

I am attaching a full explanation of the project and why it was approved in July of 2007, and sustained again retained in the 2009 budget as part of the Bonding legislation. For the sake of brevity I have attached a detailed accounting of the important points and data that support the critical importance of this project.

On behalf of all our current clients and all future clients that will be served, we thank you for your attention and support of this request.

Bridges sought to secure bonding money for the acquisition of a piece of property at 925 Bridgeport Ave, adjacent to one that we acquired almost 5 years ago, 941 Bridgeport Ave.

The original plans were to develop 941 for expansion and parking. We did extensive property planning that included new facilities construction and parking. The projected costs were well over 3 million dollars. The picture started changing when the adjacent property 925 became available with a building that was usable as is. The price there was around \$1,000,000. So it appeared that would be an even better option, at far less cost than new construction and with additional property for future expansion.

We were unsuccessful in securing bonding in 2006 to purchase that property. When we tried again in 2007 the owners of the 925 property had many changes occurring in their plans, and acquisition was now uncertain within a reasonable time frame. We developed a strategy on an approach that would make dollars available for acquisition and expansion to cover both possibilities. Should the 925 no longer be available we would build and expand on 941 Bridgeport Ave. We were successful in securing the \$600,000 bonding grant, far less than the initial request for \$1,000,000. It was to be administered through DMHAS.

At this time the acquisition of 925 is no longer feasible and we can no longer leave 941 standing idle. It has a smaller building than our original plans. We have reviewed our situation and significantly restructured our plans that involve the total rehabilitation of an existing 3,000 SF structure on 941 (925 had over 9,000 sf of usable space.) We have developed plans for that structure that include a future 2nd floor expansion. The current plans also involve the development of the property for parking and needed drainage. It is important to note that the existing structure will deteriorate if allowed to stand idle any longer. One final note regarding the delay in getting this project moving. An environmental problem existed from a leaking oil tank on the property which has now been fully remediated and will allow development and construction to proceed without complications. A 2nd delay occurred when the Governor wiped out many non-profit bonding packages a few years back, including Bridges'. We successfully worked with this committee and our area legislators to have the request reinstated a year later.

SUMMARY OF PRESSING NEEDS THAT SUPPORT THE IMMEDIACY OF THIS PROJECT

1. Depending on activities and weather, for any given week 600-800 people in addition to staff access our facilities.
2. Main offices at 949 Bridgeport Avenue used to capacity: Monday –Friday 8 AM – 9 PM Friday 8 AM – 5 PM
3. 40 staff and interns currently cohabitating office space – at least half of whom need dedicated space
4. We reduced the graduate social work training program in half due to insufficient space to house students
5. At least 6 treatment groups, including day programs, are on hold due to space shortage
6. Board of Directors no longer meet at our office due to space shortage
7. On Monday evenings both Adult & Children waiting room areas are converted into group rooms for Prevention programs.
8. Part-time personnel, including Psychiatrists and Nursing staff do not have dedicated offices.
9. Medical Records room can no longer handle record storage, requiring rental of outside storage.
10. With expansion Bridges could grow services and generate increased revenue with new treatment and day programming.
11. Current volume of requests for service force 30 individuals per week onto waiting lists or are referred out due to lack of resources including adequate space for services.
12. Two recently awarded grants, have created increased demands on existing space to deliver Smoking Cessation services funded by DPH and integration of Primary Health Care services into our mental health care system funded by a federal grant from SAMHSA
13. Due to space shortage, Bridges currently leases offsite offices for numerous programs: 2,800 sq. ft. in Milford and West Haven. Annual rental costs = \$41,130

Bridges...A Community Support System Inc.

Attachment

Project Detail

Background

Bridges purchased of 941 Bridgeport Avenue (adjoining property to our main site at 949 Bridgeport Avenue). This was accomplished with State Bonding in 2005.

For over 10 years Bridges was using the next door property for overflow parking at no cost. Bridges had a compelling need to prevent the loss of that critical parking space to another party along with expanding professional office space.

The 3,000 sq. ft. building on that site was an important need, offering the potential to expand facilities to meet a dramatic growing demand for services.

Over 3 years ago, the Connecticut Center for Child Development, owners of 925 which are adjacent to 941, approached us about purchasing their property. They were looking for a larger piece of property and facility to accommodate their growing program.

The possibility of acquiring the next door property became most attractive, in view of our growing space needs and the fact that the facility was in move-in usable condition.

A review of our current situation addresses the critical facilities needs that have developed along with the intervening events.

Main Offices and Facilities

1. 949 – 957 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Bridges.
 - 2 buildings
 - 949 Bridgeport Avenue – Main office 18,500 sq. ft.
 - 957 Bridgeport Avenue – Social Rehab program and Open Door Social Club – 3,000 sq. ft.
 - Parking for 50 + cars.
 - Both buildings fully occupied
 - Parking lot fully occupied by Bridges staff, clients, visitors and agency vehicles
 - Bridges employs over 160 full and part-time staff

2. 941 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Bridges (as of January 27, 2006)
 - Parking lot fully occupied by Bridges staff, clients and visitors (overflow from 949-957 Bridgeport Avenue)
 - 1 building 3,000 sq. ft. – unoccupied. Could be renovated or demolished for a larger structure attached to main building.
 - Current space needs indicate 9,000+ SF needed to accommodate current and future growth.

Property that was under Consideration

1. 925 Bridgeport Avenue owned by Connecticut Center for Child Development
 - 1 building 9,500+ sq. ft. for offices, classrooms and meeting rooms
 - Building currently meets code and usable as is.
 - 35+ parking spaces
 - Property value placed at 1 million dollars, in property appraisal done by Bridges in January 2006
 - Current owners were in negotiations to purchase new and larger property and facility in Milford.
 - As of January 2007, they have secured a new site and planned to sell this property.
 - Since Bridges was unable to secure needed bonding for the acquisition of this property, plans were on hold and became less feasible due to changing plans of CCDC.
 - As of the March 2010 the CCDC has determined that it will no longer sell the property since its own space needs have grown.

Previous Site Planning and facilities development.

With the likelihood that 929 Bridgeport Ave would not be an option we secured formal site planning and a comprehensive review of our space needs from Antinozzi Associates of Stratford Ct... This resulted in:

- Originally a creative architectural plan indicated that an addition could be added to the existing facilities at 949 Bridgeport extending out over the 941 site.
- The new facilities would help cut operating costs by centralizing access and waiting areas for clients, thus maximizing use of clerical and support staff.
- In addition it would provide for a new centralized medical records facility, group rooms and urgently needed space for specialized day programs, Adolescent IOP treatment programs, and prevention & education classes and expanded to counseling and treatment interview rooms that would help generate increased revenues.
- Cost projection indicated that the total project would have cost from 2-3million dollars, which included the necessary rehab of space in our 949 Bridgeport Ave main site.
- The project included development of parking and a new elevated 2nd floor addition on 941 Bridgeport Ave. connected to our current structure.
- These costs became prohibitive and not a wise direction in the developing fiscal environment, moving us to redevelop plans around the current bonding grant of \$600,000 for facility expansion.

Current Situation & Plans

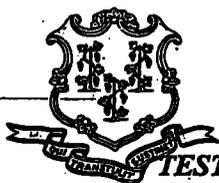
- Develop 941 Bridgeport Ave property including site development, parking, and renovation of existing structure to immediately add 3,000 square feet of office space attached to main building at 949 Bridgeport Ave.
- Engineering study has been completed on 941 building verifying that it is structural sound. A complete renovation of the building could accommodate the infrastructure to handle a 2nd story that would expand the current space by over 2000 SF.
- All building and parking plans meet city zoning and property development requirements.
- Initial plans are complete and we are contracting for Design and Construction Documents.

Summary Points

- Bridges has been serving the greater Milford, Orange, and West Haven area for over 50 years. It has grown into a major health care provider, serving over 5000 individual annually in our region, serving some 22 towns for emergency and home based services.
- With over 160 staff Bridges provides critically needed mental health and addictions services to a growing a population of adults and children in our region.
- Bridges operating budget exceeds \$11,000,000 over 70% is state grants and contracts.
- The population of Milford Orange and West Haven is close to 135,000 residents.
- A \$600,000 bonding investment equals about \$4.50 per capita for this core service area.
- To rent the needed professional medical space over the next few years could reach \$180,000 per year.
- In 5years that would well exceed by hundreds of thousands the bonding request.
- Those rental dollars would be covered by grant funds, thus drawn away from direct services.
- **Leasing space is very problematic since it will decentralize services and result in duplicative efforts and resources to administer and coordinate care for thousands of clients.**
- If we are forced to rent space this would become a fiscal albatross on Bridges and State grant dollars.
- Bridges has been a partner with the State of Connecticut for over 50 years delivering care in a cost effective manner to some of our neediest and at risk population.

The proposed property development is prudent, cost effective, essential and critical to Bridges' ability to continue providing Behavioral HealthCare services to our area residents. It is a plan that has been in the pipeline for a number of years with State dollars already invested in the property. It is a sound investment not only in our healthcare system but the promotion of local construction, jobs and community investment which is so urgently needed in today's economy.

This is ready to go and we have already spent considerable time and money on its development. Too many services along with the wellbeing of thousands of adults and children are dependent on its completion.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE**
March 22, 2010

Michael J. Cicchetti
Deputy Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 25

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and distinguished members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

This bill provides an additional \$31 million of general obligation bonds in fiscal year 2011 for two projects: a new state data center and a municipal capital assistance program.

Development of a new data center for the Department of Information Technology for \$21 million will result in significant long-term operational savings by replacing expensive leased space with state-owned space with expanded capacity.

A municipal capital assistance program for \$10 million would incentivize towns to share expensive equipment purchases resulting in savings in their individual budgets. Grants would be available for acquisition costs of equipment that has an anticipated remaining useful life of not less than five years, including data processing equipment, or for certain types of vehicles that municipalities use in the performance or delivery of a required governmental function or service. Each grant would be for twenty-five per cent of the total cost each municipality incurs, or two hundred fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less. This will provide immediate assistance to our municipalities and will promote long term cooperation and shared services.

The bill also includes an additional \$4.825 million of transportation bonds to increase available funding for environmental remediation at Department of Transportation facilities.

Finally, due to continued decline in tax revenues as projected in consensus revenue estimates, the bill cancels \$388.7 million of prior General Obligation bond authorizations in order to keep the debt limit below 90% of the limit as required by statute and to allow for the initiatives described above.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut
55 Church Street, Third Floor
New Haven, CT 06510-3029

tel [203] 568-6270
fax [203] 568-6271
nature.org/connecticut

**Testimony of David Sutherland - Director of Government Relations
Before the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee - March 22, 2010**

In Support of Bonding for THE CLEAN WATER FUND.

I am here today on behalf of The Nature Conservancy's 23,000 members in Connecticut to thank this committee for its past support for the Clean Water Fund, and to urge you to return its authorizations to 2008-09 levels - \$90 million in GO Bonds and \$180 million in Revenue Bonds annually. The involvement of unions, the Connecticut Construction Industries Association, the Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut, and other business interests speaks to the extreme effectiveness of this program in creating high-quality jobs. I wish to address its critical role in maintaining and improving the quality of our rivers and Long Island Sound. QB25

The amount of developed area in the State of Connecticut increased by 14.87% from 1985 (527,277 acres) to 2002 (605,709) acres (UCONN - CLEAR). The expansion has resulted in an increase of 21.70% in impervious surfaces over the same time period. Impervious surfaces are roads, driveways, parking lots roofs and other surfaces through which rainwater does not pass into the ground. Rather, much of this stormwater runoff is concentrated into drainage systems which are directed into streams or sewage systems if combined. 16

This increase in developed area and impervious surface has resulted in additional sewage and stormwater runoff that has likely outpaced system capacity and technology. Research across the nation indicates that water quality and stream health decline when impervious surface in a watershed exceed 10% due to increased runoff and inadequate stormwater management. As the amount of impervious surface exceeds 25%, impacts on water quantity and quality often become severe. Currently, there are 10-20 watersheds with impervious surfaces at or above the 25% threshold with many more above 10%.

Many of our rivers need the help this bill would provide. Research conducted by the Connecticut DEP indicated that 45% of the waterbodies (202) in the State do not fully support their designated uses per the Connecticut Water Quality Standards. Impaired designated uses include conditions that are detrimental to "aquatic life support", "shellfishing", "fish consumption", and human "recreational contact". Clearly, the

(over)



national goal declared by Congress via the federal Clean Water Act "to provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreation in and on those waters" is not currently being met in far too many watersheds here in Connecticut.

One of primary recipients of excess sewage effluent and stormwater runoff from all of Connecticut's watersheds is Long Island Sound. Of particular concern is the increased supply of nutrients to the Sound from point sources (sewage outflow, stormwater discharge). One of the key components of the increased nutrient loading is nitrogen. Nitrogen has long been recognized by EPA's Long Island Sound Study as a principal threat to the life supporting systems of the Sound. Elevated levels of nitrogen fuel a biological response that eventually results in hypoxia - lower dissolved oxygen in the water column (< 3 mg/l) and all too often anoxia (< 2 mg/l) across large expanses of the Sound. The current standard in Connecticut waters of the Sound is > 5 mg/l. Lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water column alter food webs and whole ecosystems of the Sound by directly killing bottom dwelling plant and animals (i.e., lobsters) resulting in dead zones devoid of marine life. While great steps have been taken to reduce nutrient loading, further effort is needed.

Investment in upgrades in sewage treatment facilities and innovative solutions for stormwater are needed to reduce current and prevent further impacts to Connecticut's rivers and Long Island Sound and keep pace with accelerating development rates.