

Sample Testimony

March 15, 2019

To: Hon. John W. Fonfara
Hon. Jason Rojas
Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Re: S.B. 876: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES

S.B. 877: AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE
GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

[Your name, organization, town where you live.]

I am submitting testimony on both the Governor's budget and his proposed adjustments to bond funding for the development of affordable housing.

Along with the elimination of bond funding for affordable housing for the foreseeable future, the Governor is proposing to reduce the value of the tax credits used for affordable housing development from \$1.00 to \$0.501. These actions taken together will virtually eliminate the Department of Housing's ability to build or renovate any multifamily affordable housing. I am greatly concerned that Governor Lamont has issued a double attack on the development of affordable housing in the near term and a crippling effect on the affordable housing infrastructure over the long term.

While I understand Connecticut is in dire financial straits, certain problems cannot be solved without state financing. Connecticut now has the sixth highest median housing prices in the nation. The reason is simple: the supply we have—too many single family homes—is not the supply that we need. More affordable apartments, condos, starter homes and other modest multifamily units are what working households, Millennials, and Baby Boomers now want.

Governor Lamont wants to reduce state borrowing because the state's debt service costs are too high. He's right. But cutting out borrowing to finance housing makes no sense. Borrowing to build housing will increase supply, reduce prices and help keep and attract people to Connecticut.

Housing creation is good for economic growth, for municipalities' grand list and good for the people who can live affordably. We need a debt diet, not a starvation diet.

[Include any numbers you have for projects being developed and/or planned that would be jeopardized by an absence of bond funding. Also include any stories you

have about affordable housing and how it has helped you, your family, your neighbors, and others.]

Please consider supporting bond funding for this vital state resource and maintaining the tax credit value at its current level.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views with you today. And thank you for the work you do on behalf of Connecticut's residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Organization
Address