



*Creating Great Communities For All*

## **Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association**

**Testimony regarding**

### **Proposed Bill No. 6611– AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND OTHER POLICIES REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT**

CCAPA supports the concept and goals behind this Proposed Bill. This Bill would provide for an assessment of the need for affordable housing across and throughout the State. It would then create an allocation of this need to planning regions and municipalities resulting in affordable housing planning and zoning goals for each municipality as well as State support to meet affordable housing needs. It does not - in and of itself - make any direct changes to local policies or regulations. It instead establishes a big-picture goal and allows communities to develop tailored solutions.

This “fair share” approach to development of affordable housing is based on a model of local assessment that has been in place in New Jersey, and has contributed to the creation of tens of thousands of units of affordable housing in a similarly high-cost housing environment. Connecticut should strongly consider adopting this model.

Aside from our moral and ethical obligations to provide fair and equitable housing opportunities, evidence is clear that Connecticut’s high housing costs are a driver of its current economic stagnation. Dramatically expanding housing opportunities across the state is critical to attracting businesses to Connecticut and reducing the cost burden of so many of our current residents who could be spending more of their limited income on food, health care, education, and social advancement. A “fair share” approach, along with the provision of significant planning resources to towns and cities, can empower our communities to chart their own course toward a more equitable, more economically competitive state.

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#### **WHO WE ARE**

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) has over 420 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities. CCAPA has long been committed to assisting the legislature and State agencies with developing and furthering responsible growth management principles.

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#### **CONTACTS**

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