



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

Testimony of Lynn Ward, President & CEO
Waterbury Regional Chamber
Before the Commerce Committee
Hartford, CT
March 2, 2023
Testifying in support of:

SB 1092: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION AND CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY CONNECTICUT BROWNFIELD LAND BANKS.

Senator Hartley, Representative Meskers; Senator Martin, Representative Harrison; Senator Rahman, Representative Fazzino and distinguished Members of the Commerce Committee: the Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 14 towns in the greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of 900 members in matters of public policy and economic development, strongly supports SB 1092: An act concerning the acquisition and conveyance of certain properties by the Connecticut Brownfield Land Banks.

Raised Bill No. 1092 will allow Connecticut brownfield land banks to work alongside regional councils of government on the remediation of brownfield projects that will improve the quality of one or more rivers in Connecticut. Allowing the land bank to enter into an agreement with a regional council of government has several constructive benefits. To begin with, projects involving brownfield sites located in multiple jurisdictions will no longer be held up due to the crossing of different planning regions or town and city lines throughout the state. In addition to this, a majority of new and existing projects require the expertise of a regional council government to work alongside the Connecticut brownfield land bank. Land Bank Trusts, for the most part, do not have the experience needed to effectively deal with the remediation of a problem as serious as these contaminated sites. Another huge advantage this bill provides has to do with the fact that many instances in which funds become accessible to clean up and decontaminate the sites are only available by use of a regional council government. In effect,

this bill eliminates the problem given both the land banks and regional council are now working together.

In conclusion, the passing of raised SB 1092 is a step in the right direction for our state to combat the ongoing brownfield contamination problem. Many members within our chamber, myself included, appreciate your committees consideration and hope for the bill to see the assembly's house and senate floors as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Ward". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Lynn Ward
President & CEO