



House Bill 5008

An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities

Submitted Testimony of Commissioner Josh Geballe

Energy & Technology Committee

March 5, 2020

The Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") supports the Governor's proposal, *"An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities,"* **House Bill 5008**.

House Bill 5008 directs the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") to utilize its subject matter expertise in energy efficiency, conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emission in order to develop voluntary, high performance green building standards that municipalities may choose to adopt for buildings built in their jurisdictions. This is an extension of DEEP's existing responsibility for developing high performance green building standards for the construction of state buildings.

These standards, which may be collectively referred to as a "stretch code," will encourage the construction of energy efficient buildings, thereby reducing such buildings' energy use and greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the buildings.

It should be noted that this bill does not alter or affect in any way the existing State Building Code or the process for updating the State Building Code. The State Building Code establishes the minimum building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and energy code requirements necessary to promote the health and safety of the people of Connecticut.

A "stretch code" establishes higher standards for certain items that are regulated in the State Building Code, such as more efficient equipment, onsite renewables, better windows, etc., and also requires elements that are beyond the scope of the State Building Code, such as commissioning standards, operational plans, and other record keeping protocols, etc. As such, stretch codes are recognized by the State Building Code as an **alternate method of compliance**, similar to the way the State Building Code treats the US Green Building Council's LEED certification standards.

DAS worked closely with DEEP and the Administration on the development of this bill in order to provide municipalities with a voluntary method that will result in lower greenhouse gas emissions without altering or interfering with the existing State Building Code Process.