



***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE***

March 5, 2020

*David Lehman, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

*House Bill 5008: An Act Concerning the Establishment of High
Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by
Municipalities*

Good afternoon Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 5008: An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities.

As you know, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting Connecticut's arts, cultural and tourism assets.

Building off Public Act 19-35, which directed the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to develop a High Performance Building Standard for state funded buildings, House Bill 5008 would allow municipalities the option to adopt this standard or a "stretch building code" for new buildings in the municipality.

With buildings accounting for approximately 40% of the state's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, allowing municipalities the ability to adopt these higher standards can significantly reduce the amount of energy use over the life of the building. Additionally, while the overall cost of the building will be increased due to these higher standards, energy savings over the life of the building would help offset these additional costs. Lastly, the Department believes that stretch codes will not negatively impact the state's business climate. Most businesses in Connecticut already look to build energy-efficient buildings because of the long-term cost savings.