



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY NANDINI NATARAJAN
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CONNECTICUT HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. I am Nandini Natarajan, the Chief Executive Officer-Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding House **Bill No. 5008 - An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities.**

CHFA was created in 1969 by the State Legislature to help alleviate the shortage of affordable housing for low- and moderate- income families and persons in Connecticut. It is a quasi-public authority that issues its own federally tax-exempt bonds to fulfill this statutory mission. The proceeds from these bonds are in turn used to finance mortgages for first time homebuyers and to fund the construction and renovation of rental apartments for low and moderate income families.

CHFA is committed to the State of Connecticut's statutory goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2001 levels by 2030. CHFA's Multifamily Design, Construction and Sustainability Standards and Guidelines exceed the requirements of the state building code, resulting in housing that is energy-efficient, cost-effective and sustainable. These comprehensive standards and guidelines cover a broad range of recommendations, from site location and energy efficiency to the quality and durability of building materials, to ensure we provide safe, comfortable homes for our residents.

With respect to House Bill No. 5008, CHFA supports the concept of establishing a stretch code for high performance green building standards. We agree the proposed bill will further the state's objectives and is designed to promote cost effectiveness in meeting sustainability goals. CHFA is committed to collaborating with legislators alongside the Governor's office, DEEP, and other stakeholders in the development of this legislation, and its successful implementation after passage.