

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1038

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and

Vote Action: Bonding

PH Date: 3/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 1038 makes several technical revisions, including to the Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Program and the Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization Program. The changes proposed in this bill, which include a tax credit, will help incentivize brownfield redevelopment across the state.

Substitute Language -- LCO 5841

The substitute language made a number of technical modifications to the changes regarding the Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Program and Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization Program. The substitute language adjusted the administrative process of these programs. Acting on a recommendation from the Brownfield Working Group task force, the substitute language removed an unnecessary provision related to the programs' procedures.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

1. **Ann Catino and Gary O'Connor, Chairs, Brownfield Working Group:** Submitted joint written testimony and Mr. O'Connor provided public hearing testimony in support of this bill. They have chaired the Brownfield Working Group since its inception fourteen years ago. This task force is charged with proposing new incentives and programs to spur

investment and rehabilitation of Brownfields. They proposed and are in support of the changes in Sections 1 & 2 in the bill. In their testimony, they provided a detailed explanation of the proposed changes. They also highlighted the critical elements of Section 3. Attorneys Cartino and O'Connor believe that this bill includes necessary changes to make the state's brownfield programs more robust.

2. **Christopher D. Edge, Economic Development Director, Town of Berlin:** Provided written and public hearing testimony in support of this bill. Mr. Edge believes that this bill would continue and expand the tools that both communities and the state utilize related to the redevelopment of brownfield properties. In his testimony, he details two current projects that would benefit from these changes. He urges the legislature to bring this bill forward because it is a positive step for the state, towns, and development community.
3. **Mike Trahan, Executive Director, SolarConnecticut:** Provided both written and public hearing testimony about this bill. Mr. Trahan noted that the state's brownfield policies pertain mostly to remediation efforts. He highlighted that there was a legislative initiative commissioned to investigate site solar on brownfields. This 2017 initiative included a pilot program and a report to the legislature about potentially expanding that pilot program. Mr. Trahan is not aware of any such report. In this testimony, he suggests adding language to the bill that would restart the process begun in 2017.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Peter B. Andrews

Date: 3-31-21