



EST. 1871

# CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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Testimony for Public Hearing  
The Appropriations Committee  
February 22, 2021

Erin E. Stewart  
Mayor, City of New Britain  
27 West Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051

**Raised S.B. No. 873** - *An Act Mitigating Adverse Tax Consequences Resulting From Employees Working Remotely During COVID-19, and Concerning The Removal of Liens On The Property Of Public Assistance Beneficiaries And A Three-Tiered Grants In Lieu Of Taxes Program.*

Dear Chairman Osten, Chairman Walker, Vice Chairman Hartley, Vice Chairman Dathan, Vice Chairman Nolan, Ranking Members Minor and France, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Today, I join with many others to once again express my strong support for Section 11 of Raised S.B. No. 873 and urge you to create three need-based tiers within the PILOT formula and provide the necessary funding to make it possible.

This is desperately needed municipal aid, and it will directly benefit small towns, suburbs, and cities, alike, across our state. It is vitally important that reliable and stable municipal aid is provided to communities, like New Britain, and this legislation would be a step forward in making that a reality.

As you know, cities, like New Britain, are burdened by the drastic underfunding of the current PILOT structure and the lack of taxable property that lie within their respective city limits; 48% of all property in New Britain is non-taxable. Additionally, The City of New Britain is almost at development capacity and cannot rely entirely on new economic development as a future revenue stream; New Britain is 98% developed. As such, increased municipal aid has become a vital aspect of our forthcoming municipal budgets.

This proposal would benefit New Britain in the amount of an additional \$4.5 million in revenue to the City and would go a long way to rectify the inequities of the current PILOT structure.

This proposal has been supported by a large and bipartisan group of municipal leaders; who recognize the critical importance of supporting one another, and the importance of thriving Connecticut cities; cities that serve as the economic engines of our state. In addition, the Executive Board of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities unanimously supported this proposal because it is of such vital importance to our municipalities, our residents, and our economic future. If we are to recover from the pandemic, we need to make sure cities and towns struggling from the lack of non-taxable property can be made whole without pushing a greater property tax burden onto their residents and small businesses.

There is more that needs to be done to strengthen our state, but this is a critical step forward that recognizes the budget constraints we currently face and still responsibly delivers essential aid to the cities and towns that need it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to in favor of Section 11, Senate Bill 873.

Erin E. Stewart  
Mayor, City of New Britain