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# Town of Berlin

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## Department of Economic Development

March 22, 2021

Appropriations Committee

RE: Bill 164

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, Representative Abercrombie and Esteemed Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am the Economic Development Director for the Town of Berlin, and an advocate of creative use of properties as well as non-traditional solutions to move communities ahead. I am speaking today concerning Bill 164, An Act Appropriating Funds For the Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant Program.

This program has been a key part of the puzzle in the present and future redevelopment of the area around the Berlin Train Station. Our \$17 million TOD project, which includes 76 market rate apartments and 19,000 square feet of commercial, restaurant and medical office space would not have been possible without grants from the State of Connecticut for the clean-up of a portion of the property

Contaminated properties often become issues for municipalities due to a few factors including being vacant, underutilized, tax delinquent and more. If there is a building on the property, it will often times be vandalized or worse. The private sector often times is not interested in taking on the cost and effort of redeveloping these properties and communities do not have the resources to do it themselves.

This is the reason why this bill is so important – it can bring life back into properties that have all been written off.

I would ask your support of this bill as it is not one that is just a big city bill. Funds for brownfield assessment, remedial action and redevelopment have happened and continue to happen in communities large and small, urban and rural. This investment into Connecticut will bring new opportunities in jobs, new taxes as well as help to take properties and transform them from eyesores to vital parts of a community.,

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Edge  
Economic Development Director

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