



*Inspiring great Connecticut downtowns, Main Street by Main Street*

## Legislative Alert

February 14, 2013

To: CT Main Street Members

Fr: John Simone

Below is an email that I received as a board member for CT Preservation Action. As it states, **the Governor's Budget proposal would take \$4 million off the top of the Community Investment Act (CIA) funds and credit it to the Dept. of Education for the purpose of the healthy foods initiative.** The Community Investment Act funds our Preservation of Place grant program that only you members are eligible to apply for and many other initiatives including resources for the adoptive re-use and rehabilitation of historic buildings many of which are in your downtowns.

CIA funds come from a \$40 dollar fee that is charged for every real estate transaction in the state. Its intent is simple and pure – funding from land-use transactions for land use initiatives like open space and farmland preservation, affordable housing and historic preservation. It has never been part of the general budget and should not be used to resolve general budget challenges. It also should not be used for non-land-use initiatives like healthy foods for school children. Not that this is not a very important initiative, as are hundreds if not thousands of other initiatives, but the CIA funds cannot be diluted to solve other programs' challenges.

**Allowing CIA funds to be used for non-land-use initiatives sets the wrong precedent and sends the wrong message for those of us who advocate for nationally-recognized programs like CIA.** After many, many citizens and elected officials worked so hard to establish CIA, do we now want to be told that this program's resources can be used for other, unrelated initiatives. We need to stop taking funding streams that were established for very important and specific needs and then using them for other purposes.

Please follow Anita's directions below to add your voice to keeping CIA funds from being siphoned off for unrelated purposes.



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*What would you do for a million dollars? What would you do to KEEP a million dollars for historic preservation in Connecticut?*

*Would you write an email today?*

The Governor's Budget proposal would take \$4 million off the top of all Community Investment Act Funds collected each year and give it to school lunches. The remainder would then be distributed to the four sectors: historic preservation, open space protection, farmland preservation, and affordable housing. **This would result in roughly \$1 million lost to historic preservation each year.** Less money for restoration grants, less money for building assessments, inventories, staff, local preservation operating funds, . . . . You can register your opinion about this using the information below. The easiest task would be to email to [EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov) before noon tomorrow. You are also welcome to give your thoughts in person on Friday, when a lottery for speaking order will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. prior to the 11:00 hearing in Room 1E.

The Education Committee will hold a public hearing on **Friday, February 15, 2013 at 11:00 A.M.** in Room **1E** of the LOB. Please email a PDF copy of your written testimony to [EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov) by 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 14, 2013 and include the word "Testimony" in the subject line. Written testimony will be accepted in Room 3100 of the LOB until 9:30 A.M. on the date of the hearing. Please submit 30 copies. Written testimony submitted after 9:30 A.M. will not be distributed in hard copy form. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 8:30 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB, will be by lottery, and will conclude at 9:30 A.M. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Elected Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All testimony will be available at <http://cga.ct.gov/ed>.

In a situation like this, numbers DO matter; quantity counts. Help us out. We may need you again next week for the Appropriations hearing.

Thanks for your support.

*Anita Mielert, president  
CT Preservation Action*