



**Testimony in Support of H.B. 6547 - An Act Concerning a Working Group
Regarding the Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties**

Patrick McMahon, CEO
Connecticut Main Street Center

Joint Committee on Planning and Development
March 5, 2021

To: The Hon. Steve Cassano, Co-Chair, the Hon. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Co-Chair, the Hon. Norman Needleman, Vice Chair, the Hon. Christine Goupil, Vice Chair, the Hon. Tony Hwang, Ranking Member, the Hon. Joseph H. Zullo, Ranking Member and the distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I write on behalf of the Connecticut Main Street Center, Inc. (CMSC) in support of H.B. 6547. CMSC is a state-wide nonprofit working to unleash the economic potential of Connecticut's downtowns. The Main Street approach to downtown and mixed-use commercial district revitalization promotes economic development in the context of historic preservation. Our downtowns, Main Streets, mixed-use commercial corridors, historic neighborhoods, and village centers are rich with historic buildings that provide housing and commercial space critical to the state's economy and quality of life. The preservation of Connecticut's iconic and historical cultural resources and the restoration of buildings included on the State and National Registers of Historic Places is essential to the health and vibrancy of our downtowns. The state historic tax credit and grant programs administered by the State Historic Preservation Office have been instrumental in moving historic restoration and rehabilitation projects forward and are key to a sustainable future for Connecticut.

We respectfully request that this bill be amended to include representation of Connecticut Main Street Center as part of the working group membership.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at 860-985-2083 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. McMahon, CEO