

Westbrook Council of Beaches

September 2, 2014

Board of Selectmen, Town of Westbrook  
Teresa Mulvey Municipal Center  
866 Boston Post Road  
Westbrook, CT 06498

Dear Sirs:

The Westbrook Council of Beaches asks that you adopt a "blight ordinance" to address the problem of properties in town that by reason of deterioration, the existence of unsafe structures, or other factors, are detrimental to the safety, health or welfare of our community. Such properties also reflect poorly on the town and its neighborhoods.

Throughout Westbrook there are blighted properties that pose a serious threat to the safety of our residents. These properties are often owned or occupied by persons or institutions who are not responsive to their neighbors' safety concerns.

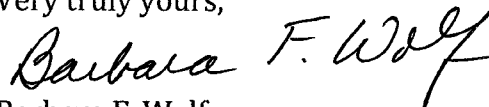
It is important to us that the blight ordinance be enforceable. It should not be so flexible that an offender could receive unlimited extensions of time, as seems to be possible under Clinton's Nuisance ordinance. Also, the town must have the ability to remedy the problem and seek damage through all the ways permitted by Connecticut statute, including tax lien foreclosure.

We also believe that blight should be defined carefully to address those situations that are truly a threat to safety. For example, there might well be different standards for a densely populated residential area than for a sparsely populated farm or industrial area.

We understand that you will be considering the adoption of a blight ordinance on September 25, and many of us plan on attending that meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Barbara F. Wolf  
President, Westbrook Council of Beaches  
25 Chapman Avenue