



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

September 30, 2022

The Department of Economic Development
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant

We are writing in strong support of the Town of Old Saybrook's application for the CT Communities Challenge Grant. After a decade of vacancy, the Town of Old Saybrook and the owner of the property where Dock & Dine was formerly located, Jon Kodama's The Point, LLC, have joined forces to help revitalize this long-dormant area.

The former Dock & Dine property has a long and storied history in the community. Until 2012 when Superstorm Sandy damaged the restaurant beyond repair, it had been home to a restaurant since 1940. The current owner has been the property's steward since 1987. Many in the area will recall that when the restaurant was heavily damaged in 2011 by Hurricane Irene, Mr. Kodama invested \$1 million to renovate and reopen the restaurant in 2012 only to have it destroyed one month later.

The Point, LLC and its investors will contribute approximately \$3 million while the town will contribute \$500,000 with the goal of receiving \$3.5 million through the grant program, which requires a 50% match in communities like Old Saybrook that are not considered distressed municipalities.

If awarded this project will improve livability, vibrancy, convenience, and appeal to communities throughout the state, while creating up to 3,000 new jobs. If the Town of Old Saybrook is awarded this grant funding, it is expected that this project will create 50-75 construction-related jobs and 60-80 year-round restaurant jobs with up to 120 employees in the summer months. This would prove to be a significant and beneficial economic step for our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Devin Carney in blue ink.

Devin Carney
State Representative

Handwritten signature of Norm Needleman in blue ink.

Norm Needleman
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Paul Formica in blue ink.

Paul Formica
State Senator