



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

TESTIMONY OF
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SUBMITTED TO THE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Peter Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership consists of firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses employing fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports HB 5741 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS.

Connecticut's ability to create jobs depends in part on an effective and efficient system of economic development assistance. This bill would require prevailing wage laws to apply to projects costing \$1 million or more new or \$500,000 or more refurbished, repaired, remodeled, rehabilitated or altered, up from \$400,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

Effectively the bill partially relieves the burden of providing and reporting of a prevailing wage project (estimated to be about 21% more than non-prevailing wage by CCM) to dozens of municipal and state development projects that require new or supplemental construction.

Given the increasing cost of construction and limited state and local fiscal means Connecticut needs to do the best it can to limit the cost of public projects. This bill is a good first step for relatively inexpensive construction undertakings.

We ask the committee to approve this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.