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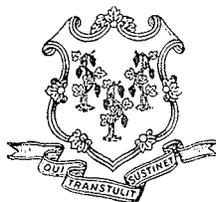
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PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

18-20 TRINITY STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1628

(860) 240-8300

FAX: (860) 240-8314

Email: pcsw@cga.ct.gov

www.cga.ct.gov/PCSW

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Testimony of
Teresa C. Younger
Executive Director

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Re:

- S.B. 530, AA Exempting Certain Regional Entities from the Requirements of the Set-Aside Program for Small Contractors and Minority Business Enterprises
- S.B. 1126, AAC The State Set-Aside Program
- H.B. 5975, AA Establishing a Local Small Business Vendor Set-Aside Program for State Contractors
- H.B. 5988, AAC the Definition of a Small Business for Purposes of Goods and Services Contracts with the State
- H.B. 5993, AAC the Department of Administrative Services Small and Minority Business Set-Aside Program

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Rep. Caruso and members of the Committee. I am Teresa Younger, Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on several bills before you that would modify the state set-aside program.

PCSW convenes the Women's Economic Development Initiative (WEDI), and collaborates with the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owner (CT-NAWBO) and the Microenterprise Resource Group (MERG) to support the growth of women-owned small businesses in Connecticut.

- **S.B. 530, AA Exempting Certain Regional Entities from the Requirements of the Set-Aside Program for Small Contractors and Minority Business Enterprises**
- **S.B. 1126, AAC The State Set-Aside Program**

Considering that the set-aside program is a source of potential business for women-owned businesses, we support the proposal in S.B. 1126 which provide more accountability for contractors to include small contractors and minority business on projects. Conversely, we are concerned that allowing the exemptions outlined in S.B. 530 would lead to fewer opportunities for women-owned businesses to participate in the program.

We offer our assistance in any efforts to address the concerns of small businesses and microenterprises. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of many women businesses owners in this state.