



Joan McDonald
Commissioner



State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
March 4, 2008

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Department of Economic and Community Development

SB 551 AN ACT CONCERNING NANOTECHNOLOGY.

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following comments in **support** of Senate Bill 551, *An Act Concerning Nanotechnology*.

DECD is excited to collaborate with OWC on advancing nanotechnology. The partnership between education and industry is vital to making our businesses competitive through technology transfer and commercialization of nanotechnology. SB 551 is very similar to SB 317 *An Act Concerning Funding For An Eminent Faculty Research Team and Nanotechnology* which is presently before the Higher Education Committee.

DECD has been active in the development of the report, "*The Call to Action: Advancing Nanotechnology Development in Connecticut*" prepared by Battelle. We have been an advisor and partner to OWC in overseeing that effort.

The Governor and I have been staunch advocates for technology programs and initiatives that enhance Connecticut's competitive position including biotechnology, stem cells and nanotechnology. We feel, and the Governor has previously stated, that nanotechnology should be a priority for state economic development and we should use appropriate incentives to encourage small companies to form around research anchors, a concept that is a major recommendation of the report.

As noted in the report, a critical recommendation is the establishment of two state-of-the-art Connecticut Centers for Nanoscale Sciences -- one at UCONN with a focus on material science and the other at Yale with a focus on bioscience -- to serve Connecticut public and private colleges and universities and industries from across the state. Utilizing shared use laboratories reduces the cost for broad access to academic and industry research, while promoting application development in focused fields of activity.

As it relates to Section 2 (b) of the bill, DECD in partnership with OWC will ask UCONN and Yale to submit detailed proposals that will foster industry-university relationships through the Connecticut Center for Nanoscale Sciences and Development. This effort aligns with DECD's technology based economic development and competitiveness agenda.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

