



**Testimony of Marie C. O'Brien, President  
Connecticut Development Authority**  
to the  
Commerce Committee

March 4, 2008

**In support of Senate Bill No. 551 – An Act Concerning Nanotechnology**

Senator LaBeau, Representative Berger, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 551: An Act Concerning Nanotechnology – and the recommendations of the Connecticut Advisory Council on Nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology is one of the keys to unlocking the next productive age of technology and, as you may know, our state is poised to take advantage of our collaborative leadership and research expertise in academic and business sectors. If we are to help Connecticut be among the top ten states in nanotechnology development, we must have signature facilities that will provide a competitive advantage for researchers, education programs and companies seeking to advance new product developments. The Connecticut Advisory Council on Nanotechnology has developed an initiative to address this gap in Connecticut's nanotechnology infrastructure. That initiative is referred to as Connecticut Centers for Nanoscale Science and is well described in SB 551.

As the state's financing partner, the Connecticut Development Authority (CDA) lends its support to economic development projects and initiatives in a broad spectrum of industries across the state. We hope that the demonstration of commercial marketplace relevance and pilot scale prototyping for components and devices -- as leading edge activities -- will propel Connecticut manufacturers and others into new, more profitable markets. Along with our partners in economic development, we look forward to the contributions such activity will make to the growth of jobs and tax revenues, and to new product and process design. Together, we seek to advance Connecticut as the place in the nanotechnology world for the finest talent, facilities, and products in the global economy.

Given the importance of nanotechnology, I applaud the Council's action plan. I believe that with its implementation our state will be among the top 10 states in the support of shared nanotechnology investments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We hope you will support Senate Bill 551.