



Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc.

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Senate Bill 334, An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations of the Office of State Ethics
Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 25, 2008

CCIA Position: Support (section 7)

Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) represents the commercial construction industry in Connecticut and is committed to working together to advance and promote a better quality of life for all citizens in the state. CCIA is comprised of more than 350 members, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and affiliated organizations representing all aspects of the construction industry. The vast majority of CCIA members who contract with the state are responsible and ethical.

CCIA supports section 7 of Senate Bill 334, An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations of the Office of State Ethics and respectfully requests that the committee approve the provision. Under this section, state contractors would be afforded a hearing before the Office of State Ethics prior to being deemed a non-responsible bidder for violating certain state ethics laws. CCIA is a proponent of the bill because, in its current form, the law can be easily misinterpreted to allow a state agency to find a contractor non-responsible for violating the four specified provisions of the ethics law without a hearing.

Section 7 of SB 334 should be approved because it would provide fairness and due process for state contractors, there is significant support to amend the law, and the current law may inadvertently lead to significant collateral consequences for legitimate state contractors without due process.

It would be unfair for an agency to deem a contractor non-responsible for a violation of the law without the opportunity for a hearing before the Office of State Ethics and the right to appeal. A contractor deemed non-responsible by a state agency would be subject to severe consequences, including being ineligible to bid on state contracts.

A similar amendment to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-101nn was approved overwhelmingly by the legislature as part of contract reform legislation on two prior occasions but the bills were vetoed by the Governor for other reasons. The change is not controversial and enjoys widespread support in the legislature.

For additional information, please contact Matthew Hallisey at CCIA at (860) 529-6855.

