

**Testimony for the record by Eddie A. Perez
Mayor, City of Hartford**

Submitted to:

**The Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Planning and Development**

March 3, 2008

Hearing on R.B. 5635, An Act Concerning the Retention of Businesses in Municipalities

Good afternoon Chairman Coleman, Chairman Feltman and members of the Committee. I am Eddie Perez, Mayor of the City of Hartford and I submit this testimony in favor of R.B. 5635, An Act Concerning the Retention of Businesses in Connecticut.

R.B. 5635 will require The Department of Economic and Community Development to notify any municipality who when DECD is negotiating with a the business in that municipality for the purpose of relocating them to a different municipality. This legislation is important for every municipality in this state.

In 2008, Hartford will lose 1300 jobs at ING because in 2006 the state DECD cut a deal to keep ING in state by moving them to a new facility, being constructed with state funds in Windsor. Hartford never had a chance to work as a full partner with DECD to retain the jobs in the City.

In 2008, Simsbury will lose 2000 jobs when Hartford Life moves to a new facility because of a DECD deal. Simsbury did not have a chance to suggest an alternate site within the town.

In 2005, Stamford suffered the largest setback when the giant international importer Diagio was subsidized to move a short distance down I-95 to Norwalk.

This legislation will not tie the hands of DECD to negotiate; it will only provide towns with a chance to retain their taxpayers. I hope you will consider supporting it. Thank you.