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Good Afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for raising SB 246, AN ACT CONCERNING A COMMISSION ON FEDERAL STIMULUS DISTRIBUTION. I proposed this legislation because I believe it is important, as a matter of accountability, that the decisions and responsibilities regarding our state's distribution of the funds received from the Federal Stimulus package be shared between the Executive and Legislative branches. This bill recognizes and provides for an appropriate separation of powers and shared decision making. The commission would be entirely bi-partisan; six of its members would be appointed by Republican officials (four by the governor) and six by Democratic officials. The citizens of Connecticut are well served when their government makes deliberate consensus decisions on crucial matters such as this. I hope that you will act positively on this legislation.