



STATEMENT REGARDING
Senate Bill 969: AAC Brownfields Funding
House Bill 6097: AAC Brownfields Development Projects

Commerce Committee
February 26th, 2009

The MetroHartford Alliance is Hartford's Chamber of Commerce and the region's economic development leader. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and 34 municipalities. The Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, talent and capital so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

At this time of intense global competition for jobs, capital and talent, it is important for us to begin to implement an aggressive strategy to attract *new* jobs and investment to our cities and our state, while also retaining the quality workforce we are fortunate to have. As an economic development organization and the capital city's chamber of commerce, we ask that you consider the positive message that Senate Bill 969 and House Bill 6097 send to potential investors within and outside our borders.

The return on investment of these funds can be dramatic. A prime example of this is the new Goodwin College campus along the Connecticut River in East Hartford. Utilizing approximately \$60,000 in Federal EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funds and \$3 million in State of Connecticut Brownfield funds, Goodwin College has transformed this highly visible and environmentally sensitive area into a state of the art campus. To date, Phase One has invested over \$50 million in capital improvements, created 400 construction jobs and 32 additional

permanent jobs (22% minority). Subsequent phases will bring the total investment to more than \$100 million and 400 total jobs while creating resources that will educate and train the workforce of tomorrow.

Recently, Connecticut received unfortunate notoriety in both *Forbes* and *Expansion Management*, magazines widely read by corporate site selectors. Consistent with a corresponding *CNBC* poll, our state is ranked at or near the bottom of such lists with regard to the cost of doing business, the cost of living in general and transportation infrastructure statewide. Given the current economic climate, other states across the nation are endorsing aggressive policies to encourage investment and job growth, policies we need to pursue in order to reverse our reputation as one of the least business friendly states. We should view the current economic crisis as an opportunity for Connecticut to stand out as a business friendly state and to take steps that make us more competitive. By passing the legislation before you today to facilitate access to brownfields funding, we will encourage new investment in our state at a time when it is most critical.

As an economic development organization and the capital city's chamber of commerce, we hope you will continue to work with us to help Connecticut stand out as a premier place to do business and create jobs by supporting Senate Bill 969 and House Bill 6097.

Thank you for your consideration.