



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

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**Testimony Of  
Jesmin K. Basanti, CBIA  
Before the Committee on Commerce  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut  
March 5, 2009**

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and all other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry and the vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Connecticut needs economic development. Connecticut businesses need to know that they have a one-stop shop that can help them grow and survive in today's economy. This is why CBIA supports **HB 6369 – An Act Concerning Economic Development and Job Creation**.

The purpose of the bill is to reorganize the state's economic development agencies and programs in a way that would lead to more economical, effective and efficient delivery of services. This will be accomplished by consolidating agencies, transferring programs and having the DECD as the state's lead economic development agency.

This type of change would be helpful to the business community because it would reduce the confusion that many businesses face when trying to determine who can help them. By making DECD the one-stop shop for economic development assistance, the state also would streamline its processes and possibly gain some cost-savings.

Measures that state government can take to give create a better business climate and more efficient operations are welcomed and for this reason CBIA **supports HB 6369**. Thank you for your time today.