

**Statement**  
**Laura Thompson Grondin**  
**Chairman Nominee, Connecticut Development Authority**  
**Executive and Legislative Nominations**  
**Date: February 10, 2009 at noon**

Good afternoon, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Laura Grondin. I am honored to appear before your Committee and to have been nominated by Governor M. Jodi Rell to become the Chairman of the Connecticut Development Authority.

I have lived in Connecticut my entire life, including attending Yale University for my undergraduate degree. I am now running a family-owned business with operations in Connecticut and have a family with young girls. I truly have a personal, vested interest in the prosperity of our state.

I have been honored to have served in other roles related to economic development in the state of Connecticut. I have served for three years on the Brownfields Taskforce which has worked to support the goals of responsible growth and Brownfields redevelopment. I was on the committee to select Joan McDonald, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, and I have served on the board of the Connecticut Development Authority for four years.

As a second-generation owner and CEO of a family-owned manufacturing business in Connecticut, I have an in-depth understanding of manufacturing and its changing nature. In my proposed new role at CDA, I have the ability to provide insights into real business issues and challenges - including how to adapt to changing market and economic conditions. Throughout my career, I have taken an active role in professional organizations. Through the years, I have maintained close contact with the presidents and CEOs of other Connecticut businesses. We discuss current issues and challenges, and I will continue to share those business concerns with CDA's board.