



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Public Hearing Testimony  
February 10, 2009  
Commerce Committee  
Rob Kane, State Senator, 32nd District

Re: Senate Bill 50 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF  
CONNECTICUT AS A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS.

Good morning Senator Lebeau, Representative Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Alberts and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of *Senate Bill 50 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF CONNECTICUT AS A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS.*

The current economic and fiscal crisis that we are in has touched all of Connecticut's residents. Our unemployment is at the highest it has been in 16 years. Foreclosures are increasing, consumer confidence remains low as the state faces an \$8.7 billion dollar deficit in the next two years. While many have argued about the cause of the crisis – both at the state and federal level – what is clear is that Connecticut has not done a particularly impressive job at increasing the number of businesses and jobs here in the state.

All of us have heard stories about businesses leaving the state for various reasons; high taxes and high energy costs are just two of the reasons. In my district, numerous companies and manufacturers are scheduled to cease operations. While it is clear that some of the business closings around the state are due directly to the economic turndown, it is also clear that if the state had a more favorable business climate, these closings could potentially be avoided.

That is why I am here to testify in support of SB 50 – An Act Concerning the Competitiveness of Connecticut as a Place to do Business. Quite simply, this bill would

require the DECD Commissioner to submit an annual three page report on the competitiveness of CT when it comes to businesses. The report would also include recommendations on not only how legislation and state policies affect businesses but also how we can improve our business climate and what other states have done to improve theirs.

I believe that passage of this bill would help all of us not only to understand what exactly our business climate is, but also how to improve it. In closing, I would like to thank the committee for holding and I sincerely hope that the committee strongly considers passing this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process.