



STATEMENT REGARDING
Senate Bill 582: AA *Creating a Stronger State Economy and Better Business Climate*
Senate Bill 968: AAC *An Expansion of the Job Creation Tax Credit*

Commerce Committee
February 24th, 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.

During this time of fiscal recession, it is vital that we implement tax policy that stimulates a meaningful economic recovery. The *Wall Street Journal* reported earlier this month that other states, such as Colorado and Minnesota, are publicly encouraging business relocation and retention by proposing job creation tax credits and tax cuts for business, while other states are establishing or expanding funds for job training, credit lines for businesses and contemplating phasing out corporate income tax entirely. Meanwhile, Connecticut is known as one of the most expensive states in which to do business, which places us at a distinct competitive disadvantage by comparison.

At a time when other states are endorsing aggressive tax strategies to encourage investment and job growth, we need to reverse our dismal ranking and take steps to become more competitive. The current economic crisis presents us with an opportunity to help Connecticut stand out as a premier place to do business. The

bills before you today support the expansion of the job creation tax credit, and, therefore, help us compete with other states that are actively pursuing the same jobs, capital and talent. Your consideration of these proposals sends an important message that Connecticut is supportive of business development and job growth.

Thank you for your support.