



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE**

**COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2010**

**Robert L. Genuario, Secretary**

**Office of Policy and Management**

**Concerning**

**Senate Bill No. 173 - AN ACT CONCERNING ACTION PLANS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony concerning Senate Bill 173, *AN ACT CONCERNING ACTION PLANS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT*.

Let me say at the outset that sound strategic planning is essential to the success of public agencies and programs. That is especially true of an agency like the Department of Economic and Community (DECD) whose programs and strategies need to both anticipate and respond to changing economic conditions and to the needs of Connecticut's businesses. That is why Governor Rell proposed and signed into law legislation, now codified as §32-1o of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requiring the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to develop an economic strategic plan. We cannot, however, support this bill's proposed changes to that law.

As you know, CGS §32-1o(d) states: "On or before July 1, 2009, and every five years thereafter, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit an economic development strategic plan for the state to the Governor for approval." Requiring DECD to submit an annual action plan, based on the same 5-year original plan, would appear to be of little value. All of the information required in an action plan is already part of the economic strategic plan.

Additionally, the bill's 20-day time period for the Governor to review and approve an action plan is unworkable, especially with respect to the first such plan, which DECD would submit less than a week before Governor Rell leaves office.

The bill also requires submission of each approved action plan to various General Assembly committees. As you know, the economic strategic plan contains a set of recommendations, any one of which the General Assembly may act upon at any time. In fact, implementation of many of those recommendations does not require legislation.

Lastly, current law already provides DECD with the ability to amend the strategic plan if there was a critical need to do so due to changing circumstances. If updating the plan becomes essential, CGS §32-1o(f) grants DECD the authority, with the Governor's approval, to amend the plan accordingly.

In closing, we believe that Senate Bill 173 is unnecessary given that the provisions of CGS §32-1o are sufficient to accomplish the planning and prioritization of economic development strategies in Connecticut.