Testimony of Jesmin K. Basanti
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Hartford, Connecticut
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H.B. 5164 An Act Implementing the Recommendation of PRI Concerning Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment in Green Industry.
And
H.B. 5349 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of PRI Concerning a Strategic Plan and Coordination for Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment.

Good Afternoon Representative Mushinsky, Senator Kissel and other members of the 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.

As our economy continues to move in to new and growing industries like "green jobs" and the knowledge economy, Connecticut will need to ensure that our workforce is equipped with the skills necessary to work and grow in this new atmosphere. CBIA **supports** the goals behind **HB 5164 and HB 5349** to create job training programs, determine sectors for growth and where there are teacher shortages. We have been working with regional workforce development boards on an Advanced Manufacturing grant to assist in this area and our members agree it is important. We understand that state may be receiving federal funds that could assist in this area and it is equally as important to ensure that Connecticut can be successful in future bidding processes when applying for further assistance from the federal government to create green jobs and promote green energy and conservation.

CBIA continues to support initiatives aimed at developing a better educated and skilled workforce. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.