



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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**H.B. No. 5460 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY BOARD.**

**CBIA supports reconstituting the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) but would like to work with this committee to revise the language in a manner that promote the efficient development of a statewide, strategic, economically-focused transportation strategy originally envisioned when the TSB was created.**

As preliminary suggestions for improving this bill, we offer the following suggestions:

Section 1(a)(1): CBIA recommends retaining designation of the Chairperson by the Governor. We believe there is a high degree of consensus among transportation stakeholders that bold and substantial investment in transportation is unachievable in this, or any other state, without the issue being a high priority for the Governor and having the Governor personally invested in the process. Giving the Governor the authority to name the TSB chairman helps accomplish this critical component of a successful TSB.

Section 1(a)(2): While the TIA's need to be fully engaged in helping the TSB understand key priorities and transportation challenges in various regions within Connecticut, CBIA does not believe it is to the advantage of the TSB and the state to have the TIA's as members of the TSB. The legislation should emphasize the need for the board to meet and hold meetings/hearings within each of the TIA regions and that information obtained there from should be considered in the TSB's strategies, priorities and recommendations. We think that will insure the TIA's concerns are well-understood and addressed without burdening the board, and, as is currently the case in our view, a TIA representative of the board in the position of representing the interests of one area of the state rather than the entire state.

Section 1(a)(3): CBIA supports removing commissioners of state agencies from the board. Our experience in observing this and other boards is that state agencies have too much invested in the status quo to meaningfully contribute to bold strategic recommendations. As with the TIA's, there should be ample opportunity for the TSB to consult with state agency's and receive all the input they need through reports, testimony and informal meetings. Additionally, all recommendations coming from the TSB that require legislative and/or administrative action will be fully scrutinized by the executive and legislative branches, as appropriate before any final recommendations are implemented.

Again, CBIA fully supports reconstituting the TSB and would very much appreciate the opportunity to work with this committee to improve the bill.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on this bill.