



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 6383
AN ACT CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No.6383, *An Act Creating An Economic Development Grants Program*.

The proposed bill authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development to establish an economic development grants program to provide grant opportunities for a variety of initiatives. These grants will allow entities to: develop small incubator programs; promote hydrogen and fuel cell industries in the state; promote supply chain integration and encourage digital manufacturing and information technologies; provide training for small and medium-sized businesses in high-performance work practices; support the development of marine science, maritime and homeland security defense industries; promote research innovation and nanotechnology; and provide technical assistance to small business owners.

The Governor's budget consolidates several individual grant programs from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. Currently, these individual grants provide specific grant opportunities for initiatives such as small incubator facilities, hydrogen/fuel cell economy, marine science, maritime and homeland security industries; supply chain integration and digital manufacturing; technical assistance to small business owners; training for small and medium-sized businesses in high performance work practices; and innovative research and nanotechnology. The proposed economic development grants program will streamline these grants and allow DECD to engage in an open and competitive process for the future disbursement of these funds.

Combining the individual economic development grants program will create a streamlined approach to economic development initiatives within the state and ensure these grants are more competitive and responsive to state needs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.