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**House Bill 6526, An Act Concerning Brownfield Remediation and
Development as an Economic Driver
Commerce Committee
March 8, 2011**

CCIA Position: Support with amendment

Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) represents the commercial construction industry in the state and seeks to advance and promote a better quality of life for all citizens in the state. Formed over 40 years ago, CCIA is an organization of associations, where all sectors of the commercial construction industry work together to advance and promote their shared interests. CCIA is comprised of about 350 members, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and affiliated organizations representing many sectors of the construction industry. CCIA members have a long history of providing quality work for the public benefit.

CCIA supports House Bill 6526, An Act Concerning Brownfield Remediation and Development as an Economic Driver. CCIA respectfully requests that the committee revise the bill, as set forth below, and approve an amended bill.

House Bill 6526 would establish a state-funded municipal brownfield grant program operated by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in at least six municipalities in the state. Currently, it is a pilot program limited to five cities and towns in Connecticut. The bill arose out of the working group established by the legislature in 2010 to examine the remediation and development of brownfields in the state. The bill, coupled with the \$100 million in financing of such projects over ten years in House Bill 6528, An Act Concerning Bonding for Brownfields, would go a long way toward redeveloping many of these dormant properties, restoring them to productive use, cleaning up the environment and creating jobs in the state. Additionally, the bill creates incentives for brownfield investment, a goal widely supported by municipalities, environmental advocates, labor, developers and businesses. It would provide relief from liability and other incentives to developers to encourage investment in remediating these highly risky sites.

CCIA does, however, have concerns with the limitations set forth in section 17(b) of the bill and would like to see those removed before the bill moves forward. Under the provision, not more than twenty properties at a time would be accepted into the program and new properties would be added only upon the withdrawal of a property from the program or upon a notice of completion of remedy. Attaining the criteria for acceptance into the program (likely creation of jobs, projected increase to the municipal grand list, consistency with municipal or regional planning objectives, and support for and furtherance of smart growth principles or transit oriented development) would impose additional constraints on developing these properties. Also, the state should not limit the

