

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE on COMMERCE
March 1, 2011

Randy Fiveash, Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Testimony Regarding

House Bill 1002

**AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE
COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMISSION ON CULTURE & TOURISM
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER CHANGES TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT STATUTES**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Commerce Committee: my name is Randy Fiveash, and effective as of today, March 1, I am the Acting Executive Director for the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, whose mission is to preserve and promote of all of Connecticut's cultural and tourism assets in order to enhance the quality of life an economic vitality of the state. I appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 1002 which is the Governor's bill to effectuate the merger of the Commission on Culture & Tourism and Office of Workforce Competitiveness with the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The emphasis of the Governor's budget is jobs and economic development and the budget recognizes the impact of the arts, culture, tourism and historic preservation on the state's economy. The proposed merger acknowledges the importance of these industries to our state and our state's economy. As I have stated over and over, the arts, culture, tourism and historic preservation create and retain jobs, generate tax revenue, revitalize communities and also make Connecticut a place where businesses and people want to be.

The merger would allow for cooperation and collaboration among the three agencies. The Commission has worked with both DECD and OWC in the past on various projects and the merger would foster creative thinking to open new opportunities for Connecticut businesses, for-profit and non-profit, and future Connecticut businesses.

The Commission primarily works with non-profit organizations and will bring to this new agency a wealth of knowledge and ideas to share with those who primarily work with for-profit organizations. Thank you.