

**TESTIMONY OF
BONNIE STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT AND COUNSEL
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011**

Good Morning, my name is Bonnie Stewart. I am vice president and counsel of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 companies in the state ranging from large industrial corporations to small businesses with one or two employees. The vast majority of our members, about 90 percent, have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA supports **HB-6559, An Act Concerning A Municipal Option To Send Municipal Tax Bills Via Electronic Mail**. This measure would help municipalities reduce their costs by permitting them to send tax bills via electronic mail when a “taxpayer has affirmatively indicated to the collector such taxpayer’s assent to receiving rate bills by electronic mail.”

CBIA has been supportive of most of the efforts municipalities have implemented to reduce their costs through innovation and achieving greater efficiencies. Moving to electronic mail has been one step many entities have taken in an effort to reduce their costs. While CBIA considers electronic mail a tool that municipalities should explore using, we also believe that requiring taxpayers to “affirmatively indicate” that they are willing to receive their tax bills electronically is critical. Should that requirement be eliminated, we would oppose permitting municipalities to electronically mail tax bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this measure.