

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING
COMMITTEE
March 7, 2011**

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No.1008

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER
PURPOSES**

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1008, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements and Other Purposes.

This bill authorizes \$316 million in General Obligation bonds (GO) in FY 2012 and \$297.4 million in FY 2013 for various State agency projects and grant-in-aid programs. These proposed authorizations are in keeping with the Governor's emphasis on infrastructure and programmatic investments that create and retain jobs.

A highlight of this bill is funding for a new program to provide \$50 million over the biennium for improvements, including dredging, at the state's economically vital deep water ports. Improving the ports in Bridgeport, New Haven and New London will foster economic growth, increase trade, reduce the overreliance on trucks to transport goods and create jobs.

The bill also contains \$114 million over the biennium to fund projects across the Community College System, \$32 million to make capital investments in the facilities of the state's nonprofit private providers and \$30 million over the biennium for improvements to state parks and recreation areas.

There is also substantial funding proposed for information technology investments including the Secretary of State's commercial recording and elections systems, enhancements and upgrades to the CORE-CT, funding for construction of a new state data center and continued implementation of the Criminal Justice Information Sharing System.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.