



Ronald F. Angelo Jr.
Acting Commissioner



State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

***TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE REVENUE
AND BONDING COMMITTEE
March 21, 2011***

*Ronald F. Angelo, Jr., Acting Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

HB 6560 AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF TAX INCENTIVES PROVIDED TO BUSINESSES

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following comments in **opposition** to House Bill 6560 - *AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF TAX INCENTIVES PROVIDED TO BUSINESSES*.

House Bill 6560 requires the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) to maintain tax related information on businesses that claim tax credits and/or tax exemptions authorized by state statute. This information would also be made available to the public. DECD believes this proposed legislation is in opposition to our State's efforts to foster a business friendly environment. This bill has the potential to allow for the disclosure of financial proprietary data of a business, which could be utilized by the business' competition providing insight on the profitability and capital investments being made by that business.

DECD strongly supports transparency in government, and specifically, the disclosure of certain tax credit information, such as credits claimed, value of credit claimed and industry utilizing the credit.

As you know, DECD administers several tax credit programs including film, job creation, and the Urban and Industrial Site Reinvestment Tax Credit program. Applications that are received from companies are protected under the freedom of information statutes sections 32-244 and 32-244a. Tax returns and other financial proprietary information that deals with the condition of the company are safeguarded, and this proposed bill conflicts with these existing protections.

Therefore, we respectfully request opposition to House Bill 6560. Thank you for your time and consideration of the department's comments. For further information or questions, please contact Joseph Oros, legislative program manager for DECD, at (860) 270-8186.