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Testimony at the GA&E Committee  
March 7, 2011  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT

Jeré C. Eaton, Owner and President of PrintabilTees, LLC  
Certified WBE / MBE / DBE / SBE

Good afternoon Chairpersons Morin and Slossberg.

My name is Jeré C. Eaton. I am the owner and president of PrintabilTees, LLC a small business located in and certified by the State of Connecticut as a WBE , MBE, DBE and SBE.

I am here before you today to request that the State of Connecticut separate the set-aside goals for MBEs and WBEs. As a highly qualified business professional who is also a minority and woman, I find it impossible to secure opportunities via DAS and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. While there are a number of departments in the state government that purchase my products, due to the current set-aside law, I am not able to gain access.

While I do not have the statistics for DAS, I do have the information for the Connecticut Department of Transportation; which I am sure closely reflect those of DAS.

Source:  
Year Ending 6/31/2010 Connecticut Department of Transportation Small Minority Enterprise Quarterly Report

White Female	\$1,180,777
Hispanic Male	\$ 75,000
Hispanic Female	\$ 19,260
Black Male	\$ 4,692
Black Female	\$ 0

Two years ago I had my only opportunity to gain an order from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. After two weeks of workings on the bid and being the low cost provided I was told that the order would have to go to another MBE who was part of a program which was approved by the State of Connecticut. Last year, while discussing the situation with Allan Musada of the Federal Highway Administration I learned that the Connecticut Department of Transportation should only follow the federal regulations and not state laws.

Given the facts provided, it is evident that the MBE and WBE must be separated with increased oversight and total transparency.

Thank you for your time.