



**Testimony
Christine Mansfield
Legislative Committee Chair
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Commerce Committee
March 15, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber *supports* **HB-5465, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S REGULATORY AND PERMITTING PROCESS**, which would require the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to do a cost-benefit analysis on existing regulations to determine the impact on business and industry.

The Quinnipiac Chamber applauds the efforts of the Commerce Committee in initiating legislation to ease the regulatory burden on the state's employers by requiring DECD to do a cost-benefit analysis of existing regulations.

Small businesses in Connecticut are responsible for creating over 90% of all new jobs in Connecticut in the last ten years. Unfortunately, the state has witnessed a record number of small businesses closing their doors. While this can be attributed to a variety of economic woes, small businesses often cite the staggering amounts of time and resources that must go into complying with complex and often confusing state regulations as a major barrier to competitiveness. We must take steps to address this by reviewing regulations to determine whether the costs of compliance and the impact on business are justified.

State agencies must look to businesses as a partner rather than an adversary. The vast majority of businesses strive to fully comply with state and federal laws and regulations. But we need to lift the burden off the backs of businesses who spend considerable time and resources complying with complex regulations that may provide no real benefit to residents.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.