

SCRCOG

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Testimony of the
South Central Regional Council of Governments
to the
General Assembly's Commerce Committee

March 15, 2012

RE: SB 121 AAC The Provision Of Development Services To Regional Economic Development Districts And The Authority To Pursue Economic Development Strategies.

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, members of the Committee, the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony today in **support** of **SB 121** with a recommended change. My name is Carl Amento and I am the Executive Director of SCRCOG, a regional planning organization representing the 15 cities and towns in the Greater New Haven area. In the Greater New Haven area, REX Development, SCRCOG's partner agency, provides important economic development services to our region. REX was the first Economic Development District (EDD) in our state to be approved for federal EDD status.

As you are aware, EDDs serve as catalysts for building collaboration for regional prosperity. Developing and implementing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in each region of our state will help our state and regions keep pace in today's competitive economic climate. There is no question that our local governments and communities can accomplish more by working together than individually.

SB 121 as written requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to fund and provide economic development services to regional EDDs and to give such districts the authority to contract and receive grants to accomplish the goals of their CEDS.

The Council of Governments strongly **supports** SB 121 with the following recommended change: The bill should be re-worded to make it clear that EDDs are able to apply for other funding services and pursue initiatives that are already in their CEDS without having to go through additional DECD approval.

Attached is a copy of a Resolution approved by our Council of Governments at its meeting on February 22, 2012 supporting state assistance for REX Development operating funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at (203) 466-8625 or camento@scrcog.org

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Resolution Supporting State Assistance for REX Development Operating Funds

Whereas: REX Development provides important economic development services to our region;

Whereas: In order to continue to operate from July 1, 2012 forward, REX Development needs funding assistance from the state for its operating expenses;

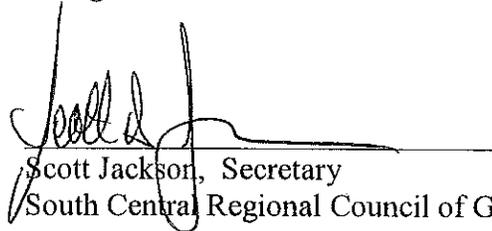
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) that:

SCRCOG supports REX Development's request for state funding assistance to meet its operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and for subsequent fiscal years.

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments on **February 22, 2012**.

Date: **February 22, 2012**

By:


Scott Jackson, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments