

GREATER NEW HAVEN

Chamber of Commerce

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Testimony of the
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
to the
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 Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony today in **support** of **SB 121**. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, a regional business organization with more than 2,000 members.

As you are aware, the Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDDS) brings together the public, private and non-profit sectors to work towards a common goal of improving the economic prosperity of the region. Connecticut's establishment of Regional Economic Development Districts demonstrates the necessity for regionalization. These Districts serve as catalysts for building regional collaboration and partnerships. Developing and implementing comprehensive, strategic plans helps our state and individual regions keep pace and prosper in today's competitive economic climate. Our local governments and communities accomplish more by working together than individually.

Each region's comprehensive economic development strategy is subject to State approval assuring the regions are working in concert with state wide efforts. To reap the benefits of regionalization, it is critical for the State recognized economic development districts to seek appropriate funding from the State to plan for and implement these approved strategies.

The Chamber strongly **supports** SB 121 with one recommended change in the language: adjust the inserted clause to read the grant shall be made and economic development services of the designated economic development district are eligible expenditures of the grant, rather than the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development providing economic development services to regional economic development districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco, Esq., Director of Governmental Affairs, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and (203) 782-4330 or ldicocco@gnhcc.com.