



**Testimony**  
**Christine Mansfield**  
**Legislative Committee Chair**  
**Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce**  
**Before the**  
**Commerce Committee**  
**February 28, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, which represents 650+ members employing more than 12,000 workers in the Wallingford and North Haven area, applauds the Commerce Committee's focus on proposals to support economic development and regulatory fairness. Clearly, Connecticut needs to move quickly to get more people on the payrolls.

Given the state's significant job losses and high unemployment rate, Connecticut needs to take action now to develop and implement a pro-jobs agenda that:

1. Targets economic development and loan programs to attract new industries and nurture the growth of existing small businesses and value-added industries, such as manufacturing and high technology firms;
2. Reduces the cost of doing business in Connecticut;
3. Ensures that state agencies are partners rather than adversaries in supporting job growth;
4. Supports employer-driven job training and apprenticeship programs; and
5. Maintains reliable energy and transportation infrastructures.

We therefore urge your support for **HB-5265**, which creates the Connecticut Small Business and Jobs Program to help businesses obtain needed capital to expand and grow jobs.

Small businesses often face difficulties in borrowing money due to increasingly rigid requirements. Although our local banks do a tremendous job in working with area businesses, HB-5265 would create a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and state banks to allow businesses to obtain favorable loan terms. This bill builds on some of the initiatives adopted during the special session on jobs which chamber members have found very beneficial.

*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.*