

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**  
**February 21, 2012**

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 22

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AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 22, An Act Concerning the Capital Region Development Authority.

This bill creates a new quasi-public agency, the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), and is a vital part of Governor Malloy's proposal to breathe new life back into the capital region and make the area more competitive. The CRDA will help cultivate new investments and strengthen the capital area's role in a revitalized Connecticut by encouraging the diversification of the regional and state economy. The CRDA will also work to stimulate residential housing development and family-oriented tourism as part of an ongoing effort to reinvigorate economic development in Hartford, East Hartford and the region.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony and I respectfully urge your strong support for this bill. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.