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Testimony of the City of New Haven
Before the Commerce Committee

In Support of
HB 5041 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE
FOR THE SHUBERT THEATER IN NEW HAVEN

Submitted by
Kelly Murphy, AICP
Economic Development Administrator
City of New Haven

February 28, 2012

Senator Lebeau, Rep. Berger, Sen. Frantz, Rep. Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to support HB 5041 – An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Shubert Theater in New Haven.

New Haven is the cultural capital of Connecticut, and the Shubert Theater, along with the Long Wharf Theatre and Yale Repertory Theater, is a vital part of the City's cultural community, as well as an important economic driver. As it nears its 100th anniversary, the Shubert annually attracts over 100,000 patrons, generates \$4 million in ticket sales, and employs ten full-time and 250 part-time workers. In addition, it attracts thousands of visitors to downtown New Haven; visitors who have meals and drinks at local restaurants, and shop along Chapel Street and Broadway before and after catching their show. As a result, all told, the Shubert has a direct economic impact of \$15 million annually.

In order to continue its success, however, the Schubert requires upgrades to its mechanical systems, exterior masonry and roof. I strongly urge the Commerce Committee to authorize these bonds in support of the Shubert and Connecticut's creative economy.

NEW HAVEN IF ALL HAPPENS HERE

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