

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Connecticut

TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGARDING HB 6354
March 22, 2013

I am Paul W. Brady, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC/CT), representing over 90 engineering firms providing independent engineering services to the public and private sector.

On behalf of ACEC/CT, I would like ask the Appropriations Committee to oppose Section 32 of Governor's Bill HB 6354, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

We do not oppose the Governor's proposal to move the Department of Construction Services under the Department of Administrative Services. However, we do oppose the transfer of design and construction responsibilities from DAS to the constituent units of the state system of higher education and responsibility for technical high schools to the Department of Education.

When the General Assembly passed Public Act 11-51 and centralized construction services from the Department of Public Works, State Building Inspector and Department of Education, our members saw a significant improvement in the state's management of their building design and construction processes. The qualifications-based selection process for design professionals and contractor bidding safeguards would be lost in this transfer. By allowing the State University system and vo-tech high schools to manage their own building programs, we anticipate less oversight and greater costs to the public and our members.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

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