

1. This act will diminish DCS's capabilities, taking key staff to support the Board of Regents and SDE is a not well thought out. First, this idea was formulated without even considering to ask the State's construction experts, DCS, how best to achieve this independence, we all work for the same goal, and would be happy to help this venture succeed within a reasonable time frame. Secondly, this change suggests that this move can provide all the mandated services with taking bodies from our depleted department without the other services that make it work; demonstrates this lack of understanding of what we do. I will expand on this later in my testimony. Thirdly, what advantage will this achieve? Quicker delivery? Lower cost? We see less coordinated statewide work, less understanding of other construction projects going on in the state, and easily a delay to get both groups up to speed, etc.
2. The Governor put together a very good idea during his first term of office by establishing a centralized focus on construction projects within the state. This proposal fragments that for what purpose? We already have dedicated staff for these agencies that are coordinated with our other functions to provide them the best service possible within the restraints that our statutes allow.
3. What this bill does is to take a critical piece of DCS and transfer it to other agencies. The easiest way to explain what is being done by this bill is to consider us an orchestra. What the bill proposes to do is to take an essential part away, say the violins, and transfer them to the BOR and SDE. This accomplishes two things: a. it provides the BOR & SDE with competent and capable staff that can never become a complete orchestra without the complement of the other instruments.. b. it renders the DCS without this competency making it at best a poor orchestra. It creates two units that will not work well.

The DCS has not only committed its best staff to these organizations but has all the needed structure to support their needs. In the last four years we have successfully met the Governor's challenge to get the work out and get people working; this can only delay that process, we have been begging to hire more staff to get this work out faster.

4. All of these functions must be duplicated by each of these groups like UCONN has had to put into place; they have dedicated legal advice, dedicated staff to oversee all the aspects that we provide. If someone has indicated that this fragmenting of these services is going to save money, I think that needs to be examined. Again, they too will need time to put this organization in place before it can start to function.
5. Lastly, the mission of educators is to educate, the mission of DCS is to construct, where does the leadership hold their alliances? I would hope to the mission of education should not be worrying about the next building. We accept this burden and share our progress with them so that they can dedicate their strengths to educational process.

Thank you for your time