



Department of Economic and
Community Development

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Catherine H. Smith
Commissioner

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

2013 Budget Presentation

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the committee, my name is Catherine Smith and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you concerning Governor Malloy's recommended operating budget for economic and community development.

As you are aware our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, ensuring quality housing, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

Governor Malloy's budget and restructuring of government demonstrates that economic development has been, and continues to be, a top priority of this administration and for the state of Connecticut as a whole.

As for DECD's specific budget, I offer the following observations:

- The department strongly supports restoring the statewide marketing campaign and maintaining support for tourism, arts and cultural events and organizations throughout the state. We believe these are smart investments that will increase the number of visitors here, create jobs, raise awareness about all our state has to offer visitors and businesses, and strengthen revitalization efforts at the local level.
- We support the establishment of the Department of Housing, although several transition issues will need to be resolved.
- We believe that line item reductions in the agency's budget will not adversely impact our ability to carry out our mission to boost competitiveness and strengthen Connecticut's economic performance.

I hope this gives you an overview of the budget ramifications for DECD and I respectively request the committee's support for the Governor's proposals. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.