



STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

**Regarding House Bill 6356
An Act Concerning Benefit Corporations and Encouraging Social Enterprise.
Before the Joint Committee on Commerce
February 28, 2013**

Proposal:

Raised House Bill 6356 will allow businesses to legally incorporate as benefit corporations in the State of Connecticut.

Comments:

AT&T supports Raised House Bill 6356 because it offers the opportunity for job growth and entrepreneurship in CT to help drive our economy while simultaneously promoting social good.

AT&T has a long history of citizenship and sustainability. The company is committed to enriching and strengthening communities across the country through the AT&T Foundation. AT&T supports programs that address quality-of-life issues, with an emphasis on improving education and advancing community development. Within AT&T's service region, the Foundation consistently reaches ethnic and racial minority groups with its grant-making at levels surpassing these groups' proportion of in-region population.

In 2011, AT&T and its employees contributed \$115 million through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T has a strong legacy with organizations focused on the empowerment of the African-American, American Indian, Asian, Asian American, Hispanic, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT), as well as military and veteran communities.

Although AT&T will not be availing itself of the opportunities presented in this bill we believe it is an innovative way to drive business innovation, bring new jobs to Connecticut and make our state an attractive home for forward-thinking companies who take social responsibility very seriously. Creating a comprehensive legal framework in which these companies can be supported but also providing a transparency for the public creates huge benefits and protections within one legal mechanism.

Conclusion:

AT&T supports Raised House Bill 6356 and urges your support for the bill in order to support the formation of benefit corporations that allow social entrepreneurs to operate businesses that mix profits and purpose.