



Testimony of Eric W. Gjede  
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Before the Commerce Committee  
Hartford, CT  
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**Testifying in Support of SB 1079 An Act Increasing The Manufacturing Apprenticeship Tax Credit**

Good Afternoon Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA supports SB 1079 because it increases the manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit to reflect the high cost of training apprentices in the manufacturing trades and the importance of manufacturing to the state's economy.

The manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit is an important tool for small and mid-sized manufacturers. Despite the prolonged period of high unemployment in the state, small and mid-sized manufacturers often do not have the resources to recruit enough skilled workers to fill vacant positions. Increasing this tax credit will help manufacturers expand apprenticeship programs, which in turn, will provide more apprentices with skills critical to the future of manufacturing in Connecticut.

We urge the committee to support SB 1079.

