

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

To Commerce Committee Members:

I write as President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, a Chamber 1600 members strong, in support of HB No. 5460 (Commerce Committee) An act establishing a plan for emerging bioscience and pharmaceutical business in Southeastern CT. To this end I strongly encourage the legislature to work with the Economic and Community Development and the Governor's office to support a comprehensive bill that will include the development for emerging bioscience and pharmaceutical business in the region.

The State's involvement in this project is an excellent way to strengthen the economy of southeastern Connecticut. The use of the existing laboratories for Pfizer scientists, as well as part of expanding UConn's science and technology departments, would attract pharmaceutical and biotech companies to the region. In addition, Eastern Connecticut, with the presence of Pfizer, presents a unique opportunity to expand UConn at Avery Point's academic offerings and make use of the existing vacant Pfizer Buildings. I strongly encourage all parties to work together with the State to make this happen.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Tony Sheridan

President & CEO

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

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