



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of HB 5896 Government Administration and Elections Committee February 22, 2013

Chairmen Musto and Jutila, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hwang, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, the House Republican Caucus appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5896: *An Act Concerning State Agencies with Regulatory Authority over Businesses*.

This bill proposes to require state agencies with regulatory authority to identify the specific statute or regulation under which it makes a decision or ruling affecting a business or development project. This would help create a business-friendly environment in the state by ensuring government accountability and transparency.

When business owners and developers do not understand agency decisions, it is difficult for them to adapt to the regulatory environment and make future plans in the state. This uncertainty and unpredictability also deters potential businesses from investing in the state.

Connecticut is one of the top ten states in terms of the amount of regulations on businesses. Small businesses are especially vulnerable to the effects of overregulation because they do not have the resources to identify the continually increasing amount of statutes and regulations pertaining to their industries. Additionally, many outdated regulations remain on the books, at times in conflict with more recent regulations. This leads to confusion and at times to unfair and arbitrary enforcement. These factors make it even more essential to require agencies to identify the basis for their decisions.

I respectfully ask the committee to give thorough consideration of this proposal as a way to create a more business-friendly government and further encourage government accountability. Thank you.