

**Testimony of Bonnie Stewart
Vice President of Government Affairs, CBIA
BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 13, 2013**

Good Morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bonnie Stewart and I am testifying today on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA's 10,000 member companies represent the broad diversity of Connecticut's businesses, and the vast majority of our members are small companies with fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for hearing testimony today in support of **HB 6479 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY DAMAGES IN SMALL CLAIMS ACTION.**

This bill acts to increase the maximum amount of money damages in small claims court from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

CBIA **supports HB 6479** as it will assist small businesses by providing greater access to small claims court. Small claims court permits litigants to resolve civil disputes in a fast and inexpensive manner. Many businesses find the time and expense associated with hiring an attorney to bring a civil action in Superior Court is more than the value of the debt or contract at issue.

Increasing the threshold for these claims is a simple and cost-effective way of helping Connecticut's small employers.

This bill will also help to reduce the volume of cases on the Superior Court docket and work to relieve the overburdened and backlogged Superior Courts.

For the aforementioned reasons, CBIA urges your **support of HB 6479.**