

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Transportation
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in Support of PSB 627 An Act Limiting the Use of Revenue Received For Transportation Fees To Transportation Purposes, and PHB 6042 An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Plan For The Improvement Of State Ports.

Good Afternoon Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation 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.

I want to thank the committee for holding a public hearing on these two important proposed bills. Although seemingly unrelated, both of these concepts recognize that Connecticut's transportation infrastructure is in need of costly repairs and the funding needed for such repairs is diminishing. Going forward, it is vital that we make smart decisions about how special transportation funds are used.

For many years now, the state's special transportation fund has been raided for the benefit of general fund expenditures. PSB 627 would ensure that any revenue received for transportation fees gets reinvested back into our state's transportation infrastructure.

PHB 6042 would require a comprehensive plan for the improvement of our state's ports. Given the dollars for infrastructure improvements are in short supply, we need a strategic, prioritized plan for how we spend the funds we do have. Like our airports, Connecticut's ports can be an economic engine for the state if their potential is fully realized.

I urge the committee to **support** PSB 627 and PHB 6042.