

**Testimony of Eric Brown
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Commerce Committee
March 18, 2014**

S.B. 1: AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE SUBSIDIZED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE REMEDIATION OF STATE-OWNED BROWNFIELDS.

CBIA's Position: Support

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to provide comment in support of the above referenced bill. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate counsel and director of energy and environmental policy for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses in Connecticut of all sizes and our core mission is to help advance policies that make Connecticut an attractive choice for investment creating more opportunities for our citizens to have good jobs and high quality of life for themselves and their families.

Accordingly, CBIA appreciates the Commerce Committee raising S.B. 1 and is pleased to support this measure because we believe it will help accelerate the remediation and revitalization of contaminated properties that are all too common in our state, largely due to our significant and proud history of contributing to our nation's preservation and prosperity during the industrial revolution.

Unfortunately, economic and regulatory conditions in our state are not yet such that we can wholly rely on attracting private capital to invest in cleaning up these properties. That is why the state, through the Department of Economic Development (DECD), has several programs available to help municipalities, developers, non-profit organizations and others with these types of projects.

This bill will extend the flexibility of DECD to direct available funding, under the state's Urban Sites Remediation program, to projects that it determines will provide a significant economic benefit to the region. Currently, the program is limited to distressed municipalities.

Further, the bill establishes a reasonable deadline (Jan. 1, 2015) for DECD to commence evaluation and remediation of 5-7 eligible properties under the program.

These are positive steps that will help our state advance the important goals associated with brownfield redevelopment and we respectfully urge the Commerce Committee to approve S.B. 1.