



Testimony of  
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AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 3, 2014

***HB 5359 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION***

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Jean Morningstar and I am the Second Vice President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation union of nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, higher education faculty, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel. Thank you for accepting my written testimony in favor of HB 5359, An Act Establishing the Public-Private Partnership Commission.

The establishment of a Public-Private Partnership Commission is essential to provide another level of scrutiny for the implementation of public-private partnership projects. Having a recommending body, in addition to the standing committee of the General Assembly, will provide another set of eyes in scrutinizing the submitted project.

The membership of the proposed commission consists of seven members. It is our recommendation that two additional members be added to this commission. One member would be appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate. Increasing the membership of this commission can assist in meeting the strict timeline set forth of having the commission meet to make a recommendation no later than fifteen days after the receipt of an agency submittal.

The proposed process of having the commission provide a recommendation to the Governor for approval, could be amended to provide more transparency by having this commission provide their recommendation to the General Assembly for a majority vote on the approval of all public-private partnership projects.

Please support HB 5359 with these recommendations and increase transparency for public-private partnership projects.

Thank You