



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE F. CAFERO, JR.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
FAX: (860) 240-0184
EMAIL: Lawrence.Cafero@housegop.ct.gov

Chairmen Jutila and Musto, Ranking Members Hwang and McLachlan and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising **Raised Bill Number 5359: An Act Establishing the Public-Private Partnership Commission.**

This bill incorporates an important House Republican proposal, which is to establish a Public-Private Partnership Commission within the Department of Administrative Services, comprised of appointments made by House and Senate leadership, the Governor's Office and the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

Raised Bill 5359 requires the Commission to review any public-private partnership projects submitted by state agencies to the Governor. Upon review of these submittals, the commission shall submit recommendations regarding the proposals to the Governor.

We would like to see the addition of language to empower the newly created Commission by authorizing them to approve projects. Currently, the Governor has the sole approval authority on public-private partnership projects, and we would like to implement a more democratic process by allowing a broader group to be involved in the decision-making process. We believe this will provide for a more transparent system. To further enhance the process, we would like all approved projects to be sent to the Appropriations and Finance Committees for public hearing, review, and approval. Finally, all projects must be approved by a majority vote in General Assembly.

Because these projects are costly, and can lead to the investment of state funds, we would also like the Commission to give priority to projects that will be financially self-sufficient and will not require state subsidies.

I urge the Government Administration and Elections Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5359 to establish a Public-Private Partnership Commission. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve transparency in our state government.