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Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
Assistant Counsel, CBIA
Before the Transportation Committee
Hartford, CT
February 28, 2014

Testifying in support of HB 5289 AA Establishing the Connecticut Port Authority

Good morning 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.

HB 5289 is good for Connecticut.

Currently, our state's transportation system often acts as a barrier to the flow of commerce. Businesses cite congestion on our state's highways as the number one culprit preventing the free flow of people and products. While expanding our highways is critical to the future of Connecticut, we must also continue to look for other means of addressing congestion. The coordination and development of our ports is a good step towards addressing the state's transportation and economic development needs.

The ports in this state are one of the primary entry points for fuel and energy products. A port authority that can help coordinate and expand the capability of storing and moving these products will help to reduce their high cost to consumers. Additionally, if our ports could handle the movement of more goods produced in the state, we can reduce the number of vehicles on our roads and bridges.

We encourage the committee to support HB 5289.