

Jeff Bishop

Statewide Port Authority Legislation Testimony

Hello my name is Jeff Bishop, I am with the Center For Sustainable Business Growth. I am here on behalf of Mr. Paul Timpanelli President & CEO of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. I have been involved with business retention and business recruitment in the City of Bridgeport for the past 15 years. Over the years we have worked with many, many organizations that have considered expanding or moving their business into the great City of Bridgeport.

Recently there have been several foreign missions as well as companies that have expressed interest in the Bridgeport area. Whenever, we entertain companies and guests from overseas they are always impressed with Bridgeport's impressive industrial past but more importantly our deepwater port. The fact that Bridgeport has a deep port always conjures up fantastic images of opportunity and economic activity. The hope and dream of having a vibrant, bustling port always seems to be within reach.

We applaud the State's efforts to establish a State of Connecticut Port Authority. We believe, as does the state, that Connecticut's three ports

represent an immeasurable economic benefit for the State. We believe that a Connecticut Port Authority can bring tremendous resources and leverage Federal, State and local assets to the local economies when working in concert with the local port authorities. We recognize the value that a statewide port authority can provide as it relates to marketing, economic growth, increased trade, job creation, but more importantly dredging issues and port maintenance. These critical functions can go a long way in helping the local port authorities flourish and focus on the task of expanding economic activity.

We acknowledge the importance of this legislation and what it means to the local port authorities and the State's overall economic health. We want to support this legislation and make sure it is intelligent and designed to work in partnership with the local entities that encourages and fosters prosperity and does not wrest control from the local community. We look forward to this important legislation and look forward to working in partnership on the implementation of this much needed economic development.

Thank you