



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN E. PISCOPO
SEVENTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Testimony on rHB 5515 An Act Allowing The Designation Of The Town Of Thomaston As An Enterprise Zone.

Dear Chairmen LeBeau and Perone, Ranking Members Frantz and Lavielle, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee:

For the record my name is State Representative John Piscopo of the 76th Assembly District.

I am here to testify in strong support of **rHB 5515 AA Allowing The Designation Of The Town of Thomaston As An Enterprise Zone**. Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. They account for almost 80% of our jobs. Yet with our economy stuck in neutral, our small businesses are increasingly shouldering the burden of an economy that is moving in the wrong direction. With the continued increase of taxes, Connecticut continues to remain an antagonistic environment for the growth of small business. This inclusion would help our district by attracting new business to our area and growing our local economy.

Businesses currently located in, or relocating to an enterprise zone qualify for a series of tax breaks. These tax breaks allow businesses to maintain their capital, and to reinvest the money back into the business, leading to further growth, more jobs, and an expanding economy. This is a simple formula for business development and growth.

Currently, Thomaston does not belong to an enterprise zone. However, other surrounding towns belong to enterprise zones. The Naugatuck Valley is an enterprise zone, as is Waterbury and Bristol. Thomaston is located right in the midst of these other towns that have incentives for business. We have the space to accommodate new and expanding businesses, and want to be seen as an attractive location on an equal playing field with our neighbors.

One of the first considerations for businesses looking to move into a new area, or to possibly leave the area, is whether or not that location is in an enterprise zone. Companies will invariably

move into or remain in an enterprise zone, as a strategy to benefit from tax abatements, as opposed to an area like Thomaston, which is not able to offer this incentive.

This move would bolster our local economy and increase economic growth, increase the tax base, and create jobs. In this stagnant economy and climate, it would be beneficial to lower tax rates for all Connecticut businesses. This proposal to add Thomaston to the Waterbury enterprise zone is the sensible solution. Thank you for your consideration.