



**Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2015**

Good Day Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **Governor's Bill No. 953 AAC Labor Peace**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am here in support of this important Governor's bill. This bill requires certain contracts (for hotel and concession area operation or management services) into which the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) enters, in which the CRDA has made an initial investment of not less than 25 million dollars, to include a labor peace agreement between the contractor and the labor organization representing the employees on these certain projects. "Labor peace agreement" means an agreement between a contractor, and any subcontractor thereof, and a labor organization representing hotel or concession area employees in the state that requires the labor organization and its members to refrain from engaging in labor activity that may disrupt the hotel or concession area's operations, including, but not limited to, strikes, boycotts, work stoppages and picketing.

Labor peace policies protect millions of tax dollars invested in proprietary business operations in New York State, Chicago, Southern and Northern California, Miami, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington state and many other locations. These policies, often passed following disruptive labor activity, ensure that the state's interests in the success of a project are fully protected. As the state seeks to continue its efforts to invest in downtown Hartford and the Capitol region, it is important to make sure that these investments are not unnecessarily disrupted and that the long-term operational success of the project is protected. This proposal is an important step in this direction and we look forward to working with the Committee chairs to move this bill forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.