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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**  
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BILL FINCH  
Mayor

February 17, 2015

Public Safety and Security Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3600  
300 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: S.B. 901: An Act Concerning Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts**

Dear Committee Chairmen Senator Timothy D. Larson & Rep. Stephen D. Dargan:

Thank you Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on an act concerning boxing and mixed martial arts.

In Bridgeport, we're home to Webster Bank Arena, which is a world-class, multi-purpose facility. It's also centrally located near our improving downtown area.

Our city's downtown businesses are doing well: they're creating jobs and generating revenue. But it's clear that they do even better when Webster Bank Arena has a concert, sporting event, or other sources of entertainment taking place.

That's a major reason why I'm voicing my support for this legislation, which will make it far more likely for venues like Webster Bank Arena and others across the state to house Mixed Martial Arts competitions.

Mixed Martial Arts is the fastest growing sport in the country, attracting a wide-ranging and diverse fan base. It has the potential to create hundreds of additional jobs and bring in millions of dollars in revenue.

In fact, a recent report in neighboring New York found that if it were to allow Mixed Martial Arts, the Empire State could stand to generate nearly \$70 million in additional annual economic spending.

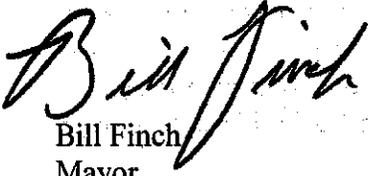
At Webster Bank Arena, a sold-out event brings in around 10,000 people. Every sold-out event is an economic boon for our improving downtown and local businesses.

We believe strongly that allowing for Mixed Martial Arts competitions to take place at Webster Bank Arena will result in many more sold out events, and therefore it's good for our economy.

I urge all members of the committee to strongly consider joining me in supporting this legislation. It will create jobs and help Bridgeport continue getting better every day.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Finch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Finch  
Mayor