



CONNECTICUT
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Transportation Committee
Hartford, CT
February 11, 2015

**Testifying in support of PHB 5949 AA Requiring A Priority System For Transportation Infrastructure
Projects**

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea, 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.

CBIA supports PHB 5949.

In a 2013 survey of Connecticut businesses, the number one transportation related concern was highway traffic congestion. Connecticut is home to some of the most heavily congested highways in the country - in particular the I-95, I-84 and I-91 corridors. Respondents noted that congestion plays a role in planning work schedules, limits their markets, prevents meetings with customers, holds up delivery times, and disrupts logistics.

A means of prioritizing transportation projects is critical, particularly if priority is given to ensuring safety and alleviating highway traffic congestion. Transportation funding is limited and becoming more unreliable. It should be imperative that we spend the funds we do have ensuring that our highways and most highly utilized commuter mass transit systems are running as safely and efficiently as possible. Transportation systems should be economic pipelines, not economic inhibitors.

We encourage the committee to support PHB 5949 in order to prioritize transportation projects that will help alleviate the state's congested highway system.