

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Transportation Committee
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in support of SB 938 An Act Concerning An Integrated Transportation Plan For The State

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 SB 938.

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.

The best way to begin to address Connecticut's traffic congestion problem is to develop a prioritized strategy to ensure the efficient movement of people and products in the state. To do this correctly, it is critical to have our economic entryways to national and international markets efficiently linked together by our highway system. Pursuing more efficient links to these resources will help alleviate the burdens on our overly congested highways by adding additional entry points into the state for economic activity. Requiring the Commissioner of Transportation and Executive Directors of the Connecticut Airport Authority and the Connecticut Port Authority on a study to link these transportation resources will help develop this important strategy.

CBIA encourages the committee to take favorable action on SB 938.