



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 7000
GAE Committee
March 16, 2015

Chairmen Jutila and Cassano, Ranking Members Smith and McLachlan and Members of the GAE Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 7000: AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.**

This bill incorporates an important House Republican proposal to permit businesses to seek a declaratory ruling from the Attorney General when a business in the state has a bona fide dispute with a state agency concerning the application of a regulation.

A number of Connecticut businesses are struggling economically, in part due to the large amount of regulation our state imposes on them. In turn, these businesses attempt to navigate the complex regulatory terrain with little to no guidance. The state also spends large amounts of money and resources tracking down innocent overburdened proprietors.

House Bill 7000 would assist small businesses by allowing them to clarify the interpretation and application of an agency regulation without a significant cost. Currently, our small businesses have to challenge potentially erroneous agency interpretations through the process of a hearing. This hearing requires the entrepreneur to attain legal counsel, miss time from work, and dedicate business resources that could be better used. House Bill 7000 attempts to remedy that situation by allowing them to request a declaratory ruling from the Attorney General directly.

I urge the GAE Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 7000 to permit businesses to seek a declaratory ruling from the Attorney General. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve transparency and help our state's small businesses.