



# The Business Council of Fairfield County

*Strengthening Businesses. Strengthening Communities.*

## TESTIMONY

**TO: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FROM: PAUL S. TIMPANELLI, PRESIDENT AND CEO  
BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL**

**JOSEPH McGEE, VICE PRESIDENT  
THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**DATE: APRIL 1, 2015**

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Paul S. Timpanelli, and I am the President and CEO of the *Bridgeport Regional Business Council*, a 1000 member business association, and the management entity of the Trumbull, Stratford and Bridgeport Chambers of Commerce. I am here today representing our membership as well as representing the *Business Council of Fairfield County*.

I am here today to speak in favor of House Bills 7051 and 7052, both of which, if adopted, would assist us in our efforts to improve the image of our state, which, today, continues to suffer, in terms of our mutual desire to have Connecticut seen as a good place to do business, from its "Corrupticut" perception. Each of you knows, as well as I do, that our state continues to lag behind most other states in terms of our perceived "hospitality" to business, and each of you knows, as well as I do, that there are many reasons why we have not progressed at a pace which quickens the growth of our economy.

We believe that one reason why our state has not advanced quickly enough in terms of job growth and economic expansion, is because potential investors, developers, and business leaders, in general, lack sufficient confidence in the State of Connecticut. They lack that confidence for a number of reasons; not the least of which are the troubles we have had over the last five to ten years in terms of corrupt politicians. Far too many of our elected officials have ended up as convicted felons. This state of things has, in our opinion, resulted in a lack of investor confidence. Investors, developers and business leaders like political stability, they like political ability, and they like above board dealings with political decision makers.

To have an environment where so many of our elected officials, frankly, have ended up in jail over the last ten years, or so, has helped to diminish confidence in our state. Both House bills 7051 and 7052, if adopted, will help to send a message. That message is that the State of Connecticut is committed to cleaning up its act, punishing corrupt politicians, and sending a clear message to the investment and development job generating world that we will not tolerate such behavior.

These two measures will, as you know, provide prosecutors with added tools to take on public corruption cases and will keep convicted corrupt politicians from ever being able to repeat intolerable behavior. By so doing, a clear message will be sent that Connecticut is a place that invites and encourages investment. This will result in added job growth and economic expansion, which I know is our desired outcome as well as the desired outcome of this legislature.