



HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

March 1, 2016

To: Senator Joan V. Hartley, Co-Chair
Representative Chris Perone, Co-Chair
Members of the Commerce Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Support for SB 302, AAC the Impact of Proposed Legislation and Proposed Regulations on Businesses**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

We strongly support SB 302 as it is a critically needed step to change the mindset of the legislature and state agencies toward creating a business friendly environment in Connecticut. And, that's what this is all about; that's our collective challenge – changing the mindset of how policy makers throughout the legislature and administrative branch think about the impact they have on businesses; the impact they have on jobs and wealth creators.

Unfortunately, and this is but one example of why SB 302 is so necessary, I will likely be unavailable to appear before you today to discuss our support for this bill because we must oppose bills in other committees that would add huge costs to the home construction business or create new regulatory hurdles to real estate and housing development. In fact, we have nothing proactive in this legislative session that we have proposed because we have tremendous defense to play on multiple fronts. **In short, we cannot go on offense if we cannot get our defense off the field.** After nine years of our Great Housing Recession, the attitudes and positions by some that allow destructive business proposals to keep coming back or to let new regulatory ideas be hatched is, frankly, disturbing and disheartening.

So, while we are elsewhere fighting more regulations, more costs and fees on our businesses, and more challenges to our ability to grow jobs and to provide the housing that Connecticut's citizens need, we urge you to adopt this legislation and see it through the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important topic.

Vision: "Building CT's Economy, Communities and Better Lives One Home at a Time"
Mission: "Using Effective Advocacy and New Knowledge to Solve Our Member's Problems."