



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



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Legislative Analyst

Alok Bhatt

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is George Mathanool. I am a Commissioner of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (CTAPAAC) and also serve in its Business Committee.

I was the former Chairperson of Town of Groton's Economic Development Commission in New London County. Currently I am retired, after 25 yrs. in the realm of investment banking and venture capital within Asia-Pacific and European countries.

I write to seek your continued support of this vital Commission and on behalf of all Asian and Pacific Islander communities and constituents within Connecticut.

Our Commission is the sole intermediary, ombudsman and cultural liaison for the vast and ethnically diverse population of Asians and Pacific Islanders, to address their issues and convey socio-economic needs to the Governor, General Assembly, local legislators and various State agencies. Our mandated duties and responsibilities covers individuals and families from North, South and East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australasia and including Pacific islanders of Guam and Hawaii.

In the past decade, the Asian community is the fastest growing community, with significant number of professionals continuing to relocate here to fill the demand of our emerging medical, bio-tech and boost life-sciences industries and for tertiary education.

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Another key mandate of CTAPAAC is to “support the State's efforts to develop international trade and cross-border economic cooperation with the countries of Asia and the Pacific Rim”.

Going forward, our Commission plans to partner in the economic pursuits of our business communities, chambers and the State’s economic development clusters for jobs creation, by forming synergy with counterparts in Asia and Pacific countries, for bi-lateral cultural and trade relations with Connecticut.

Looking into Connecticut’s GDP and key exporters: In 2012, the Asian and Pacific countries account for 30+% of Connecticut's exports; another 17+% of services were exported; that supports 191,100 jobs; over 210+ AsiaPac companies have investments in Connecticut.

In addition, with current pending trade ties with Asia-Pacific countries, Connecticut’s industries are poised to significantly boost export of avionics, aerospace engineering, defense and transportation-related products.

Noting this growing importunity now facing CTAPAAC by its enlarging population and to act as a linchpin for State’s business strategies and goal towards Asia-Pacific, I look forward to your support and favorable consideration for our endeavors equal success.

Thanking you and most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mathanool".

George W Mathanool

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