



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
REGARDING RAISED SENATE BILL 439
March 18, 2016

I am Paul W. Brady, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC/CT), representing over 90 engineering firms providing independent engineering services to the public and private sectors with more than 1,300 employees.

On behalf of ACEC/CT, I would like offer our members' opposition to Raised Senate Bill 439, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS.

In 2013, the State Contracting Standards Board adopted a mission statement: "Our mission is to ensure that state contracting and procurement processes reflect the highest standards of integrity, are transparent, cost effective, and consistent with the statutes and are conducted in the most efficient manner possible and all procurement should create economic opportunity for Connecticut residents and businesses to the greatest extent possible and consistent with applicable laws."

In these difficult economic times when the state is faced with trimming programs and laying off state workers, the need to efficiently manage the state's limited resources becomes even more critical. Unfortunately, this bill would have the opposite effect. It would create even more layers of bureaucracy and delay the contracting process for many critical functions of the state government.

The original intent of the privatization language in this statute was to require a thoughtful analysis before state employees were laid off and their functions turned over to contractors. This bill would redefine privatization to include almost every procurement contract entered into by the state, causing more delays and increased costs.

The General Assembly and Governor have difficult decisions about the size and functions of the state government over the next few years. The State Contracting Standards Board should be sharing information among state agencies about how to

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improve efficiency, help municipalities regionalize services and increase competition for state contracts.

Governor Malloy has proposed a sweeping modernization of the state's transportation system. That thirty-year program will require the hard work and expertise of state employees, consultants and contractors. I've attached a brief paper outlining the benefits of using consulting engineering firms. The state DOT will have to adapt to new ways of managing projects and getting the work done more efficiently. We look forward to working with state agencies to make the future happen. Thank you for your consideration.

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Attachment