



**Connecticut General Assembly
Commerce Committee
Public Hearing
February 23, 2017**

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the region’s economic development leader and the City of Hartford’s Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions as well as the municipalities of North Central Connecticut. Our mission is to ensure that the region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country’s premier places for all people to live, play, work, and raise a family.

The Alliance applauds the leadership and members of the Commerce Committee for their efforts to develop innovative tools and strategies to strengthen our state’s economy, encourage capital investment and increase job growth.

MetroHartford Alliance Statement in Support of:

H.B. No. 5583 - AN ACT EXPANDING INVESTMENT ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.

The Angel Investor Tax Credit program is a vital mechanism encouraging new investment in Connecticut ventures. Entrepreneurs across Connecticut benefit from this innovative program, its expansion will serve to help more start-up firms access the capital they need to grow, add jobs and succeed in our state.

H.B. No. 5584 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SMALL BUSINESS HOTLINE.

Fostering the launch and continued growth of small businesses is critical to our state’s economic success. Further, ensuring that Connecticut’s state government serves as an effective resource for small businesses will help to underscore that Connecticut is “open for business” and committed to supporting entrepreneurs.

Proposed H.B. No. 6749 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE MARKETING PARTNERSHIP TO RECRUIT BUSINESSES TO CONNECTICUT.

The MetroHartford Alliance appreciates opportunities to collaborate with policymakers across state government to ensure that the private sector’s expertise and input are reflected in key initiatives. No mission is more critical than strengthening our state’s economy, and a critical component of that mission is to make sure that employers inside and outside of our state are aware of Connecticut’s competitive advantages. We support the state engaging with communications and marketing industry leaders - especially those based in the state – to ensure that the great story of Connecticut’s quality of life, exceptional education system and highly skilled workforce is being heard across the country and around the world.

MetroHartford Alliance Statement in Opposition to:

Proposed S.B. No. 628 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN.

Connecticut's broadband infrastructure benefits the state's employers and residents, and is the result of both billions of dollars in private sector investment as well as the hard work of the thousands of Connecticut residents these companies employ. In addition to building a broadband infrastructure that is vital to Connecticut's economic competitiveness, these businesses and their employees pay taxes and invest their dollars in our communities. These providers also develop the innovations in speed and access that are critical to our state's economy and technology community. The metro Hartford region is fortunate to have local companies making major ongoing investments in broadband. In April 2016, Frontier Communications made a significant commitment to deliver high-speed internet to Hartford's North End and as recently as December of last year Comcast completed a \$6 million network expansion in downtown Hartford that will bring broadband to hundreds of businesses and residents.

Our state offers broadband infrastructure that leads the nation in speed and access. In lieu of using limited taxpayer dollars requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop a high-speed broadband infrastructure plan, we suggest the state collaborate with Connecticut's broadband employers as partners in order to build upon Connecticut's solid foundation of broadband access and speed.

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