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Commerce Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 9, 2020

Senator Hartley, Representative Simmons, Senator Martin, Representative Cummings, and members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SENATE BILL 277, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM.**

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS), in support of S.B. 277 because we believe the Enterprise Zone program must be reviewed. It has been a successful incentive program, but changes in state funding and the communities themselves require a fresh look.

CEDAS is the professional association for economic developers across Connecticut. We count approximately 400 members who are working everyday to increase economic growth in Connecticut. Regularly, our members interact with Enterprise Zones. In some situations, the program has become more of a burden than a benefit. Reductions in state reimbursement have hollowed out the incentive and saddled towns with new costs. There are other issues as well including eligibility and the location of the zones – all should be reviewed.

We strongly support passage of S.B. 277 and request that CEDAS and municipal economic developers are included in the study that will occur. I would even go so far to say that this caveat should be included in the language of the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Garrett Sheehan
President
Connecticut Economic Development Association