

**PA10-145**

HB5500

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**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE  
PART 3  
605 – 909**

**2010**

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mhr/gbr

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

March 16, 2010  
1:30 P.M.

And that's it.

JESMIN K. BASANTI: Good afternoon, Representative Berger, members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, and I'm here to talk in support of the overall goal of four bills on the agenda today, Senate Bill 22, AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE; Senate Bill 455, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT SPORTS AND MARKETING CORPORATION; House Bill 5498, AN ACT CONCERNING MICROBUSINESSES, and House Bill 5500, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.

We all know that it's become increasingly important to develop a good business climate in Connecticut, especially given some of the press that our state has received over the last few days. These types of measures would lead to entrepreneurial potential being realized in our state as well as efficient contracting, higher productivity, job creation, and overall economic growth. These measures would therefore also garner business support and reaffirm belief from the business community that state government is really committed to a better business climate in Connecticut.

We appreciate any effort the Legislature can take to expand tax incentives to small businesses, offering them assistance with growth and sustainability and providing one-stop service centers where they can receive business assistance.

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So we also think that these measures are a hole-in-one and appreciate the committee's continuing support for business climate in Connecticut.

Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Jesmin. Nice segue there.

Comments or questions?

Thank you for your --

JESMIN K. BASANTI: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Eric Brown.

ERIC J. BROWN: Good afternoon, Representative Berger, and members of the Commerce Committee.

I'm Eric Brown, also with CBIA. Normally, three is a charm, but clearly two is a charm, in this case, and I'll just be taking up the tail end of this.

But I am -- I'm here to -- I'm here to testify briefly on two bills, raised Bill 453, on the state's regulatory climate and 5499, promotion of business.

I certainly agree with my -- my friend Marty Mador in his statement about the importance of having a strong business and economic climate along with an environmental climate, and they go hand-in-hand. The problem is we have probably the best environment we've had in, you know, over 150 years; we've got one of the worst economies we've had in -- in decades.

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ERIC J. BROWN: Sure. I'd be glad to do that.

REP. JOHNSTON: Or --

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Representative.

REP. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Representative.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Eric, for your testimony.

ERIC J. BROWN: Thank you, very much.

REP. BERGER: Andy Markowski.

ANDY MARKOWSKI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  
members of the committee.

My name is Andy Markowski; I'm the State  
Director for the National Federation of  
Independent Business, better known as "NFIB."

I submitted written testimony in support of  
eight bills on the agenda today. I'll just  
briefly list them and then summarize some key  
points. NFIB is supporting Senate  
Bills 22, 23, 450, 452, 453, as well as House  
Bills 5498, 5499, and 5500.

I especially want to thank the Chairs, the  
ranking members, all the proponents of all of  
these bills, which I think certainly send a  
positive message about the business  
environment in Connecticut.

So often, you hear a lot about the negative  
business climate that we're faced with here  
and how there's a chilling effect, how the  
mere introduction, even, of certain bills,

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such as paid sick leave, for example, puts businesses on edge. And, of course, this only compounded by what's happening at the federal level right now. Certainly that's nothing that the General Assembly has any control over, but I would encourage the entire Legislature to take a lesson from the Commerce Committee and -- and put forth bills, such as the ones that are on the agenda today which combat that chilling effect. They actually send a positive message.

We heard a lot today about credit and credit issues. I just wanted to point out a couple things. Credit markets are tight, certainly; that's no secret. But it's a very, very complex problem. NFIB has -- has researched this in depth. Our national research foundation last month put out a report, based on a national survey of small business owners. And basically what that report found was that lack of sales is the number one problem of small businesses right now. The need for credit, a demand for credit was actually very low down on that list.

I've included a executive summary of those survey results, along with my written testimony. I also plan on sending to the committee a -- a link to the .pdf file. It's a rather lengthy document that explains this more in depth.

But the other part about those findings that were interesting, when you look at the reason why credit is tight, it's also tied into the real estate market. As real estate values have become depressed, the usage of real estate as collateral, et cetera, for loans or

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for refinancing, et cetera, which is a very, very common tactic for many small business owners, as that area has tightened, so has the ability to -- to take out loans.

Tax credits. Several of the bills before you today impose a -- a tax credit for new hires. NFIB is firmly supportive of that, particularly the fact that these Job Creation Tax Credits for the first time apply to any new job, which is a positive step forward, as well as the fact that the credits will apply to past-through entities, of which many small businesses are, S corps, LLCs or file on their person income taxes.

So with that, I will end my comments. And, again, I thank the committee.

REP. BERGER: Okay. Thank you, Andy, for sticking around and -- and having your comments to the committee. I look forward to your continued support for these commerce bills.

Thank you.

ANDY MARKOWSKI: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Chuck Stedman. Chuck Stedman. No? Okay. He's not here.

Okay, that will conclude the public hearing, Commerce Committee meeting for today.

Our next scheduled meeting is for Thursday; that date and time is to be yet determined.

Thank you.



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony of Jesmin K. Basanti  
Staff Attorney, CBIA  
Before the Committee on Commerce  
Hartford, Connecticut  
March 16, 2010**

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry and the vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA has always supported measures that promote economic development and awareness of our business climate in Connecticut. For these reasons we support the following bills:

- **S.B. 22 An Act Concerning Small Business Assistance**
- **S.B. 455 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation**
- **H.B. 5498 An Act Concerning Micro Businesses**
- **H.B. 5500 An Act Concerning the Office of Small Business Affairs and Establishing the Small Business Advisory Board**

It is unyieldingly important to develop a good business climate, within which private sector activity actually flourishes. This leads to entrepreneurial potential being realized, efficient contracting, higher productivity, job creation, and overall economic growth. A bad business climate results not only in the general inability of the state to attract investment and business, but also leads to economic dumping where the state ends up expending valuable resources on overcoming regulatory burdens rather than on productive activities.

Measures like these will not only garner the support of the business community but will reaffirm their belief that state government understands the importance of keeping them viable and in Connecticut.

Furthermore, any measure that state government can take to expand tax incentives to small businesses, offer them assistance with the growth and sustainability of their company, and provide them with a one-stop service center, will not only foster good will but will allow those businesses to expand, to create more jobs for people in this state and help grow our economic base.



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CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
 BY  
 ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR

**SUPPORTING**

**SB-22, AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE;  
SB-23, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION  
 TAX CREDIT;  
SB-450, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND;  
SB-452, AN ACT ESTABLISHING METRICS TO MEASURE THE OUTREACH  
 EFFORTS OF THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES;  
SB-453, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT;  
HB-5498, AN ACT CONCERNING MICRO BUSINESSES;  
HB-5499, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF BUSINESS;  
HB-5500, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
 AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD**

BEFORE THE  
 COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
 MARCH 16, 2010

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees and membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I thank the Chairs, Ranking Members, and the Committee for raising and hearing the aforementioned bills and I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut supports the entire package of bills heard today as an attempt to assist struggling small businesses. We applaud the proponents' desires to help small businesses and the recognition that small businesses and entrepreneurs are indeed the engine that drives the state's economy. As state lawmakers work towards solutions to help turn the economy around and focus on helping small businesses, whether through this bill or other pending legislation, it should also be noted that in addition to what many think of as a traditional small and micro businesses, it's actually the "midsize" small and independent businesses that will lead us out of the recession (See *Hartford Courant*, "Midsize Companies Key To Economic Recovery", 2/14/10).

NFIB Research Foundation, two energy-related topics ranked in the top 10 problems faced by all small business owners nationally. "Energy Costs, Except Electricity" ranked as the 2nd greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 4<sup>th</sup> position in 2004. This problem is deemed as "critical" by 43 percent of small business owners. "Electricity Costs (Rates)" ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in 2008, up from 10<sup>th</sup> in 2004 and 19<sup>th</sup> in 2000. Anecdotally, however, we know that this problem is indeed greatly exacerbated for Connecticut's small businesses.

Generally, small business owners use energy for a number of purposes essential to their business, including lighting, heating and/or cooling and operating equipment. Rising electricity costs in particular have great consequences for small businesses.

Start-ups and new businesses, however, are particularly vulnerable to not only the high cost of energy, but also the fluctuating rates. Recent surges in energy costs, combined with the current credit crunch, form a barrier that many businesses cannot afford. Entrepreneurs, who are already risking their own capital in trying to get a business off the ground, are often faced with restricted cash flow and view large security deposits for utilities as one more impediment to their success.

Section 3 of HB-5498 will go a long way to help entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground and help them and regulators alike understand one of the many economic challenges small businesses are facing.

Regarding Section 4 of HB-5498, NFIB/Connecticut suggests that in subsection (b), subpart (1), line 320, that the minimum number of employees should be 1 or more, up to any specified maximum. If the intent of this section is to truly benefit the smallest of small businesses and those who can not receive loans through traditional lenders, it does not make sense to put a minimum threshold on the criteria which must be incorporated into the development of the regulations as specified by statute. As currently written, a struggling entrepreneur with 3 employees, for example, would not be eligible for the loan program.

#### SB-452

NFIB/Connecticut supports this bill as a means of promoting transparency and fiscal accountability within state government; specifically, those agencies responsible for providing small business assistance. Small business owners routinely utilize metrics and perform a cost-benefit analysis when making business decisions, it only makes sense that all state agencies and programs are subject to such.

#### HB-5500

NFIB supports this bill, much like we supported the Governor and the Legislature for their original creation (and subsequent elimination) of the Office of the Business Advocate. At the time, the creation of the OBA moved Connecticut forward in assisting and promoting small businesses, having joined fellow New England states Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts in having a full-time advocate to work on behalf of small business. This legislation, fortunately, attempts to move back in that direction by

providing for single points of contact relative to small business assistance, etc., something which small business owners are constantly asking for. Additionally, NFIB/Connecticut applauds and supports the creation of a state Small Business Advisory Board, and we would be willing to lend our organization's expertise and service to the board as representatives of a business association (line 51). As the only state-wide and national association exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses, NFIB would be able to provide a unique and necessary perspective to the Small Business Advisory Board.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- Many policymakers misidentify the fundamental bases of small business problems, leading to promotion of faulty policy. The principal immediate economic problem for 51 percent of small employers remains slow or declining sales, six percentage points more citing the problem than one year ago. Uncertainty was identified by over one-fifth (22%) as theirs, followed by access to credit (8%) and falling real estate values (8%), virtually the same as last year. Even among owners who report they cannot get credit, twice as many cite poor sales as cite credit access.
- The percentage of small business owners holding a business loan or credit line each fell almost 20 percent in the last year, though the number of loans and lines outstanding per owner with at least one loan or line remained almost constant. The percentage holding a business credit card(s) fell by about 10 percent. Sixty-two (62) percent pay off their card balances monthly, leaving 38 percent using business cards as a source of credit.
- The financial institution extending a line of credit changed the terms/conditions of the line(s) during 2009 for 29 percent of small employers having at least one. About 10 percent with a business loan had the same experience as did 22 percent with a business credit card. The most frequent change was increased interest rates.
- Fifty-five (55) percent of small employers attempted to borrow in 2009; 45 percent did not, although five percent of owners, so-called discouraged borrowers, did not try because they did not think they could obtain credit.
- Forty (40) percent of small business owners attempting to borrow in 2009 had all of their credit needs met; 10 percent had most of their needs met; 21 percent had some of their needs met; and, 23 percent had none of their credit needs met. The current level of borrowing success is significantly lower than in the mid-2000s when up to 90 percent had their most recent credit request approved.
- In 2009, about 20 percent of small employers attempted to obtain each of the following types of credit: vendor loans, credit lines, renewal of credit lines, business loans, and business credit cards. The least difficult to obtain was a credit card (73% successful); the most difficult was a new line of credit (38% successful).
- The best predictors of success in meeting credit needs were: higher credit scores, customers of banks with less than \$100 billion in assets, more properties collateralized for business purposes, and fewer second mortgages held. Owners of larger small firms, older businesses, and businesses located in states with relatively few home foreclosures are also frequently good predictors of success in obtaining certain types of credit.
- Overwhelmingly, the most common planned purpose of credit rejected was to fill cash flow needs. Though many prospective borrowers had multiple planned purposes for rejected credit, about one in three sought at least some money to replace plant, equipment and vehicles with a non-mutually exclusive third intending to invest in additional plant, etc.
- Falling real estate values (residential and commercial) severely limit small business owner capacity to borrow and strains currently outstanding credit relationships. Ninety-five (95) percent of small employers own real estate, including a primary residence, the business premises (commercial), or investment real estate that is neither of the two. Twenty (20) percent hold one or more mortgages on real estate that finances other business assets and 11 percent use real estate as collateral for business purposes. A non-mutually exclusive 20 percent hold a second mortgage on a property. Thirteen (13) percent report at least one property upside down.
- Broad and deep real estate ownership is a major reason why small businesses have not yet begun to recover, why larger businesses have been able to recover more quickly than small businesses, and why this recession is different, at least for small business owners, from recent ones.



**H – 1077**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

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PART 4  
895– 1168**

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properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Would the Clerk please take a tally and would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5526.

Total Number voting 145

Necessary for adoption 73

Those voting Yea 145

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 6

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

This bill passes.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 188?

THE CLERK:

On page 12, Calendar 188, House Bill Number 5500,  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
AND ESTABLISHING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD,  
favorable report of the Committee on Commerce.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Berger, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's

favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An important bill that's before us -- and the reason being that the discussion this year, certainly in Commerce and certainly in the General Assembly and the State of Connecticut, is how do we improve our business climate in this state. And one of the ways that we can do that is with the bill that we have before us here today because what we will do with this bill is, with an existing office that is within DECD, we will make a single point for small business seeking financial and technical assistance, defining their role using some existing quasi governmental SERC and CECAT and having an advisory council board that will dictate policy for business growth and development, both financially, creating employment in the state, and working through the Department of Economic and Community Development.

So this will certainly put us on the forefront, much as what this General Assembly had done with Brownfields Remediation And development in creating the office of Brownfield remediation and development office, a single point source for brownfield remediation and development, so very important for us.

This board will consist of seven members. Those will be decided by the commissioner representative of the manufacturing and business community, chambers of commerce, economic development entities, and as I had stated before, SERC and CECAT. The board members will each serve five-year terms. They must meet at least annually beginning December 31st of 2010.

I move for adoption.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of this bill.

Will you remark further?

Representative Berger further?

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk is in -- should be in possession of LCO Number 3598. I ask that he please call and I be allowed to summarize.

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SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 3598, which shall be designated as House Amendment Schedule A?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3598, House "A", offered by Representative Berger, et al.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Berger has asked to leave the chamber to summarize. Do I hear or see objection? Hearing and seeing none, please proceed, Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes. Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a clarifying technical amendment that was requested by the S -- CSU system, the Connecticut State University System because, currently, DECD is the host sponsor for the business -- small business development centers and thereby the advisory council. CSU is -- is actually the sponsor for state locations, which there are five throughout the State of Connecticut.

So it just clarifies the language and includes CSU, where it wasn't quite clear prior to this amendment, so I move for adoption of that clarifying

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amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of House  
A.

House A, will you remark?

Representative Alberts of the 50th, you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand in support of the amendment as presented.  
Anything that makes state government more efficient is  
worthy of our support, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Alberts. Apparently we  
like Doc.

Further on House A? Further on House A?

If not, I'll try your minds, all those in favor  
please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed?

House A is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended? Further on the

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bill as amended?

Representative Alberts of the 50th.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the proponent of the bill, if I may.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, my understanding is that with the underlying bill now as amended, there is no fiscal note to the -- for this measure. Is that not correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a good bill now amended. I support it 100 percent. One of the greatest challenges we have as a state is to further small business activities,

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and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Thank you.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Alberts.

Further on this bill?

If not, staff and guests please return to the well. House members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Would the Clerk please take a tally and would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5500 as amended by House A.

Total Number voting	144
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	144

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

100  
April 20, 2010

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 7

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill as amended is passed.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 319 -- 319.

THE CLERK:

On page 23, Calendar 319, House Bill Number 5495,  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIVER FALLS IMPROVEMENT  
DISTRICT WITHIN THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR, favorable report  
of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

From the Elm City, Representative Staples of the  
97th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (97th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's favorable report and passage the bill.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of  
the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of  
the bill.

Please proceed, Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (97th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

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3842 - 4128**

cd  
SENATE

553  
May 5, 2010

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Then calendar page 6, Calendar 378, House Bill 5197,  
move to place on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Moving to calendar page 8, Calendar 440, House Bill  
5113, move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 441, House Bill 5109, move  
to place on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Continuing calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill  
5500, move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

cd  
SENATE

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May 5, 2010

Calling from Agenda Number 4, Substitute for Senate Bill 201.

Senate Agenda Number 8, Substitute for House Bill 5398, Substitute for House -- Senate Bill 175, Substitute for Senate Bill 302.

Returning to the calendar -- beginning on calendar page 5, Calendar Number 315, House Bill 5264.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 378, Substitute for or -- correction -- House Bill 5197.

Calendar page 8, Calendar -- correction, returning back to page 5, Calendar 295, Substitute for House Bill 5114 -- correction, not Calendar 295, it's Calendar 294, House Bill 5391.

Returning to calendar page 6, Calendar Number 378, House Bill 5197.

Calendar page 8, Calendar Number 440, Substitute for House Bill 5113. Calendar page 441 -- Calendar 441, Substitute for House Bill 5109.

Calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill 5500.  
Calendar 5 -- 41 --

Calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill 5500;  
Calendar 4555, House Bill 5202; Calendar 445, House Bill 5392; Calendar 450, House Bill 5529.

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Calendar page 10, Calendar 461, House Bill 5207;  
Calendar 483, House Bill 5244.

Calendar 484, on page 11, House Bill 5383; Calendar  
487, House Bill 5220; Calendar 488, House Bill 5297;  
Calendar 490, 5425 -- House; Calendar 496, House Bill  
5497; Calendar 509, House Bill 5126.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 511, House Bill 5527;  
Calendar 514, House Bill 5426; Calendar 516, House Bill  
5393.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 520, House Bill 5336;  
Calendar 521, House Bill 5424; Calendar 523, House Bill  
5223; Calendar 525, House Bill 5255.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 531, House Bill 5004.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, House Bill 5436;  
Calendar 540, House Bill 5494; Calendar 543, House Bill  
5399.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 544, House Bill 5434;  
Calendar 547, House Bill 5196; Calendar 548, House Bill  
5533; Calendar 549, House Bill 5387; Calendar 550, House  
Bill 5471; Calendar 551, House Bill 5413; Calendar 552,  
House Bill 5163; Calendar 553, House Bill 5159.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 554, House Bill 5164.

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Calendar page 20, Calendar 556, House Bill 5498;  
Calendar 557, House Bill 5270; 559, House Bill 5407; 562,  
House Bill 5253; and House Bill -- Calendar 563, House  
Bill 5340; Calendar 567, House Bill 5371; and Calendar  
573, House Bill 5371.

Mr. President, I believe that completes the items

--  
THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you please give me on Calendar 567,  
do you have 5516, sir?

THE CLERK:

What -- what calendar?

THE CHAIR:

567 on page 22.

THE CLERK:

It's 5516.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir. Okay.

Machine's open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the  
Senate on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please  
return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the  
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

cd  
SENATE

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May 5, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? Please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

Mr. President -- Mr. President, before moving to adjourn, I would like to ensure the entire chamber will wish Laura Stefon, Senator McDonald's aide, my former intern, a happy birthday.

And with that -- and with that, Mr. President, I would move the Senate stand adjourn