

**PA10-162**

**SB175**

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

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5315 – 5590**

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Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Jarmoc.

Representative Jarmoc, perhaps you could move this to the consent calendar.

REP. JARMOC (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this be placed on the consent calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, this item has been moved to the consent calendar.

396, Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 396, substitute for Senate Bill Number 175, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL, favorable report by Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 5474. If he would call it and I be allowed to summarize it, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5474, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A." Would Clerk please call.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5474, House Amendment provided by Representative Fritz, Esty, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentlewoman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a strike all

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amendment. It deals with the closing of a defense plant in the town of Cheshire. It also specifies clearly that you have to have at least 800 workers laid off or removed from their jobs. It also talks about the fact that the ancillary job shops that are dependent on the main plant have to be considered in the loss of income to the town and a loss in property taxes. It is a program that's under the guidance and direction of the Commissioner of DECD for two years. And depending on the status of the plant after that time, then the program will either continue or disappear.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand this, there would be only one community in the state, through you, Mr. Speaker, that this would be

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applicable to?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker, that's true.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and this would be essentially a two year initial period of time and then subsequent two year periods, as many as two of those. Is that not correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, sir, that's true.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a restriction in terms of the type of business that might be able to go back into that facility? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fritz.

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REP. FRITZ (90th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the main restriction that is placed on is, is that there has to be environmental clean up before anything can go back into that facility.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was some concern in some previous discussion about the fiscal note that may be here. And if the good proponent would discuss that, I would appreciate it. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, basically what the fiscal note said that it involved 225,000 dollars, but it was not what that appeared to be. Because it had -- it dealt with certainly giving tax credits to a new business that moved in there. But at this point in time, until such a facility is vacated and somebody else decides to come in and use that facility, it will be -- no tax credits granted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

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REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do support this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A?"

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment .e.  
is adopted.

Representative Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Mr. Speaker, I request that we move this to the consent calendar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection? Hearing none, this item is moved to the consent calendar.

Mr. Clerk, 497.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 497, substitute for Senate Bill Number --

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Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

Mr. Speaker, without objection, can I move this to consent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, this item is moved to the consent calendar.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to call on Representative Olson to call today's consent calendar.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are about to vote on SB108 SB302 today's lengthy consent calendar. The items we have SB250 HB5398 moved to consent are: SB153 SB175

Calendar Numbers 499, 487, 180, 507, 430, 396, SB412 SB428 535, 497, 522, 517, 510, 155, 466 and 489. Thank you, SB121 SB427 Mr. Speaker. SB370 HB5420 SB354 SB272

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam. And as soon as we get this up on the board.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, we have already voted on item 430. I want to thank

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Representative Hamzy for being so diligent and  
watching the calendar. I make a motion to remove Item  
4370 from the consent calendar. Thank you, Mr. SB153

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I believe we have corrected the error.

As you can see, the consent calendar is on the  
board. Representative Olson has moved passage of the  
bills on the consent calendar.

Staff and guests, please come to the well of the  
house. Members, take your seats, the machine will be  
opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll  
call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting  
today's consent calendar by roll call. Members to the  
Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members  
voted? Please check the roll call board and make sure  
your votes were properly cast. If all the members  
have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk,  
please announce the tally. Clerk, please announce the  
tally.

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THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number Voting	150
Necessary for Adoption	76
Those voting Yea	150
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The consent calendar passes.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to -- I move for the immediate transmission of all times acted upon that require further action in the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Motion for immediate transmittal to the Senate of all items acted upon needing further action. Any objection? Hearing none, the bills and items are immediately transmitted.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 430 --

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 422.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 422, Senate Bill Number 430,

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the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of House Bill 5011.

Total Number Voting	33
Those voting Yea	33
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

The bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please return to call the  
calendar?

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 24, Calendar Number 340, File  
Number 522, substitute for Senate Bill 175, AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL,  
favorable report of the Committee on Commerce and  
Export and Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's  
favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

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Question before the chamber is the acceptance and passage.

Will you remark further?

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Very briefly, Mr. President. This bill establishes an 18-member council to recommend ways to promote the state's competitiveness and places it within the Department of Economic and Community Development for administrative purposes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further?

If not, Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

I would like to say a few more words, Mr. President, that I think this bill is a good bill. We don't hear a lot about our state's competitiveness or lack thereof. This gives an opportunity for us, for both the Legislature and the Governor, to get advice on that issue from a variety of professionals out in the field. And I think it's a good bill and ought to pass.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Are there any further remarks? Any further remarks on the bill before us?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

If there's no objection, Mr. President, I'd like to move this bill to the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, this bill is placed on the consent calendar.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 27, Calendar Number 379, File Number 362, substitute for House Bill 5278, AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, favorable report of the Committee on Aging and Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

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Bill 5265; Calendar 313, substitute for House Bill 5002.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 314, House Bill 5201.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 340, substitute for Senate Bill 175.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 346, substitute for Senate Bill 151; Calendar 350, Senate Bill 333; Calendar 371, substitute for House Bill 5014.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 375, House Bill 5320.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 379, substitute for House Bill 5278; Calendar 380, substitute for House Bill 5452; Calendar 381, substitute for House Bill 5006; Calendar 382, House Bill 5157.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 384, substitute for House Bill 5204.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 395, substitute for Senate Bill 127; Calendar 396, Senate Bill 147.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 413, House Bill 5024; Calendar 414, substitute for House Bill 5401.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 419, substitute for House Bill 5303.

Calendar 32 -- page 32, Calendar Number 421, substitute for House Bill 5388; and on calendar page 34, Calendar 46, substitute for Senate Bill 68;

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Calendar 50, substitute for Senate Bill 17.

Calendar page 35, Calendar 64, substitute for  
Senate Bill 187.

Calendar page 37, Calendar 109, substitute for  
Senate Bill 189.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 148, substitute  
for Senate Bill 226.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 182, substitute for  
Senate Bill 218.

Calendar page 41, Calendar 188, substitute for  
Senate Bill 200.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed  
on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

All right. If the Clerk has made an announcement  
that a roll call vote is in progress in the Senate on  
the first consent calendar, the machine will be open.  
Senators may cast their vote.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on  
the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return  
to the chamber.

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THE CHAIR:

Would all Senators please check the roll call board to make certain that your vote is properly recorded. If all Senators have voted and if all votes are properly recorded, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk may take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 is passed.

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President, for a -- for an announcement.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

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THE CHAIR:

Motion on the floor to suspend rules to take up items. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, first, under House Bills Favorably Reported on Senate Agenda Number 8, first, Substitute House Bill 5398.

Mr. President, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion to place the item on consent. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And next is Substitute Senate Bill Number 175 on Senate Agenda Number 8, move to place it on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion to place item on consent. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

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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.

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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

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE  
PART 1  
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**2010**



**STATEMENT REGARDING**  
**Senate Bill 175: An Act Establishing the Connecticut Competitiveness**  
**Council**

**Commerce Committee**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The MetroHartford Alliance is Hartford's Chamber of Commerce and the region's economic development leader. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and 34 municipalities. The Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, talent and capital so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

We write today regarding Senate Bill 175, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Competitiveness Council. This legislation assigns a Competitiveness Council the charge of developing a strategic plan to "promote the competitiveness of the state's industry and economy." Having participated in the hearing process for the Department of Economic and Community Development's statewide strategic plan for economic development, we are hopeful that the work that was performed by this agency will be captured in the Council's planning process rather than duplicating efforts or expenditures by the state.

There are points in this legislation that we would like to offer specific support to. In section 1(g), it is stated that the strategic plan must incorporate analysis of the state's cluster initiative. We work closely with the Insurance and Financial Services Cluster and have observed firsthand the value and success of this cluster's commitment to pursuing workforce development and training initiatives,

---

as well as economic development statewide. We feel strongly that the cluster model should continue and support analysis of this work to substantiate this position. Additionally, under subsection (g) in section 1 of the bill we suggest that the functions of the Council specifically include research and forecasting to support the strategy.

The MetroHartford Alliance is highly supportive of any efforts to strengthen the economic climate in our state to cultivate more entrepreneurs and privately held businesses. Angel networks are a vital part of this strategy, and tax incentives to encourage this type of investment are an important piece of this policy goal. To that end, we support the establishment of an Innovation Network in Connecticut within available resources. However, we would like to ask for the Committee's consideration in adding an appointment to the Competitiveness Council from a chamber of commerce or regional economic development organization as well as the appointment of an economist.

We thank you for your consideration.

Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services Cluster

Aetna  
 AXA-Equitable  
 ConnectiCare  
 Department of Economic &  
 Community Development  
 The Hartford Financial  
 Services Group  
 Hartford Steam Boiler  
 Inspection & Insurance  
 Company/Munich RE  
 ING Group  
 InSource, LLC  
 Insurity/Lexis Nexis  
 KPMG  
 MassMutual Financial Group  
 MetLife  
 MetroHartford Alliance  
 NewAlliance Bank  
 Northeast Utilities  
 People's United Bank  
 The Phoenix Companies  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers  
 Prudential Retirement  
 Savings Bank Life  
 Insurance/Vantis Life  
 Sovereign Bank  
 TD Bank  
 Travelers Companies  
 UnitedHealth Group  
 United Illuminating  
 Webster Bank  
 XL Insurance

**Statement on Behalf of  
 Connecticut's Insurance and Financial Services Cluster**

Regarding

**Senate Bill 175: AA Establishing the  
 Connecticut Competitiveness Council**

Commerce Committee

February 25, 2010

The Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services Cluster is generally in support of raised bill, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Competitiveness Council.

The proposed Council would be responsible for developing a strategic plan and recommendations for its implementation. To ensure its success, the legislation outlines provisions that make it different from other like committees and councils within the State. First, the membership would consist of industry representation from all geographic regions in Connecticut establishing a comprehensive understanding of each region's unique strengths. Secondly, a definitive timeline has been stated to procure a plan that is relative to the current challenges and opportunities of the economy today. Support of the State's committees such as Auditors of Public Accounts, Office of Fiscal Analysis, Office of Legislative Research and the Legislative Program Review & Investigations Committee is mandated thereby creating a strong public/private partnership that will lead to a thoughtful and meaningful plan.

Additionally, the Connecticut Competitiveness Council will include the consideration of industry clusters as an economic base for their analysis. Nurturing the state's key industries improves the competitiveness of all businesses – the definition of a "cluster economy". As Executive Director of the Insurance and Financial Services Cluster, I can attest that one new job in insurance and financial services yields 1.4 additional jobs for Connecticut's economy.

Clusters allow for the interconnectedness of markets, products, people, trade associations and educational institutions. This collaboration is necessary to compete in a global economy. The Council's edict to

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 860-728-2271**

*Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services Cluster*

include an analysis of and recommendations made by the current economic clusters in the strategic plan will yield a profound understanding of what Connecticut needs to do to compete for jobs, talent and capital.

I ask your support of SB 175. Using our current infrastructure and knowledge of clusters as a foundation for the Connecticut Competitiveness Council's strategic plan will yield a more robust and competitive Connecticut economy, a plan that other states can only hope to have.

*Susan C. Winkler*

Susan C. Winkler  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services Cluster

*31 Pratt Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
860-728-2271*



Joan McDonald  
Commissioner



State of Connecticut  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development

***TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE***  
***February 25, 2010***

*Joan McDonald, Commissioner*  
*Department of Economic and Community Development*

***SB 175 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS***  
***COUNCIL***

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following comments concerning SB 175 *An Act Establishing The Connecticut Competitiveness Council*.

As the lead state agency for economic development, the department's interest is to support the development of a strong, innovative, and competitive economy where the state's key industries can grow and prosper.

To achieve these goals and the intent of the bill, there must be a long-term commitment between government and industry as well as resources to develop the plans; implement their recommendations, and carry out the programs/initiatives of the economic clusters. In addition, we believe that these efforts should be done in consultation with the Governor's Economic Advisory Council.

The proposed Competitiveness Council is similar to the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology (the Council) which was established by executive order in 1998. Its term was extended twice before the executive order expired on December 31, 2006.

The mission of the Council was to actively promote world-class innovation, productivity and competitiveness through industry cluster economic development initiatives. The Council, through the industry clusters and advisory boards, provided guidance to the Governor, legislators, and DECD regarding economic policy and program priorities.

The Council's effectiveness was rooted in it being composed of dedicated and engaged members of Connecticut's business community. As such, the Council was able to offer real-time market knowledge and expertise to better align the talent and resources of government, education and regional organizations with the realities of the global marketplace. The results of the collaboration and constructive interchange of ideas led to

higher levels of innovation and productivity in both the private and public sectors, such as:

- Research & Development Tax Credit Program
- Creation of the Transportation Strategy Board
- Investments in Cluster related projects
- Loan Loss Carry-Forward made more competitive with national and state leaders
- Creation of the BioScience Cluster and Biotech Facilities Fund - producing new lab space, increasing the number of biotech companies, motivating retention and growth of major pharmaceuticals.
- Lean manufacturing introduced in hundreds of smaller manufacturers and thousands of workers skilled-up, critical to their survival
- 3,700 inner city students completed semester long entrepreneurial educational program (NFTE CT)
- 40+ inner city companies from distressed cities were among the INC Magazine/ICIC "Inner City 100" award winners over the past 4 years
- Harvard Business School created and is teaching a special Case Study on Connecticut's industry cluster initiative

The Council was one of the most significant private-public initiatives launched in Connecticut. It provided the governor and legislative leaders with independent, candid insights based upon current market realities, as well as hands-on assistance. Its purpose was to shape and oversee the implementation of the industry cluster economic development initiatives. It is important to note that the logistics and maintenance of administering such a body requires significant dedicated resources from the department.

I would also like to note that the intent in the proposed bill, to develop a "strategic plan to promote competitiveness" is duplicative of the Economic Strategic Plan prepared by DECD pursuant to Section 32-1o of the Connecticut General Statutes. This constitutes an inefficient use of resources as well as introduces yet another plan regarding development policy, an area in which too many plans already exist. My agency alone is required to prepare several overlapping and duplicative plans.

In closing, DECD believes that under current law there are more than sufficient resources already existing that would be willing to help accomplish what SB 175 is proposing. We would welcome the opportunity to assist the Commerce Committee in any way possible if this bill should move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the department's comments.