

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETING

IN RE: JANUARY 7, 2010

STATE ECONOMIC STRATEGIC PLAN 6:05 p.m.

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BEFORE: JOAN MCDONALD, COMMISSIONER

RE: STATE ECONOMIC STRATEGIC PLAN
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1 . . .Verbatim Proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic
3 and Community Development, Community Partners Meeting, in
4 the matter of the State Economic Strategic Plan, held at
5 Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley
6 Street, New Britain, Connecticut, on January 7, 2010 at
7 6:05 p.m. . .

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11 DR. STAN MCMILLEN: Good evening. Thank
12 you for coming to our second public forum here at Central
13 Connecticut State University. Tonight we will give you a
14 brief overview of the Economic Strategic Plan that was
15 mandated by Public Act 07-239 codified into Section 32-
16 10.

17 Commissioner McDonald will do the
18 presentation, and then we'll move to a public forum
19 session where those who have signed up to speak will come
20 forward and sit at this chair over here. And when you do
21 come forward please say your name, spell your last name,
22 because the session will be recorded and transcripts will
23 be available on our website.

24 The strategic plan, as you know, is

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1 available on our website, it was posted September 16th in
2 its full form. I'm going to have to move over -- are you
3 going -- okay. So, without further ado, Commissioner
4 McDonald.

5 COMMISSIONER JOAN MCDONALD: Good evening
6 everybody, and thank you all for coming out on this first
7 part of January. As Stan mentioned, we are here kicking
8 off the second public hearing on the strategic plan.

9 In addition to the four public hearings
10 that are scheduled for public input into the process, we
11 have also been presenting the plan at forums with various
12 community organizations, business organizations around
13 the state. Since the plan was released in September
14 we've conducted 16 of those. I've actually presented 15
15 times and Stan has done one or two in getting the
16 dialogue out.

17 At the same time as the strategic plan is
18 out there, the legislature has been undertaking an
19 evaluation of Connecticut's competitiveness. So, from our
20 vantage point it's really great that everybody is putting
21 their best minds and their best thoughts forward as to
22 what we need to do here in Connecticut to remain
23 competitive and actually to become more competitive.

24 Stan mentioned that in May of 2007 the

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1 legislative enacted a public act, which required DECD to
2 prepare this economic strategic plan. Purely
3 coincidentally, May of 2007 was when I started my tenure
4 at the Department of Economic and Community Development.
5 And think back to that time almost three years ago,
6 Connecticut was really enjoying the fruits of a lot of
7 our investments.

8 And things were going pretty good. The
9 unemployment rate at that time was 4.2 percent, we were
10 on our way to job creation of 1.6 million, which we
11 reached in January of 2008. And we were just starting to
12 hear some concerns about what the subprime mortgage
13 situation might be doing to our state and our national
14 economy.

15 So, it was a very different economy when
16 the Governor and the legislature required this strategic
17 economic development plan. And I'd like to frame that
18 before I get into the actual plan, because I think it's
19 important for all of us to recognize how quickly things
20 can change.

21 And there have been a lot of articles and
22 news reports on television and radio news about the
23 decade that was, the decade that's coming, the year that
24 was past, the year that's ahead. And whenever we look at

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1 a planning initiative as I said when we kicked off our
2 initial forums in the winter of 2008, it's important that
3 a plan be able to be executed because I think many of us
4 that have been in this business of economic development
5 strategy, transportation, land use, planning is a great
6 thing.

7 But planning has to be flexible, and it
8 has to be able to adapt to whatever the circumstances are
9 that surround it. So, we start out with in looking at
10 what's good in Connecticut. Connecticut has some great
11 advantages, and one of our determinants is where does
12 Connecticut stand in knowledge based jobs.

13 We score really close to the top in that
14 regard. The Kaufmann Foundation in its 2008 ranking and
15 rating of where states stand in the new economy,
16 Connecticut is ranked number two overall, and that's a
17 really great thing. Our employment in that same survey
18 in IT occupation, we're number seven. The education
19 level of our workforce is number four.

20 The average educational attainment of
21 recent immigrants is number five, and that's an important
22 indicator because it's something that we'll all need to
23 focus on in the months and years to come. And our
24 employment in high wage traded services, we're number

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1 two.

2 Another indicator that I think has really
3 somewhat pleasantly surprised me is Connecticut is tied
4 with South Carolina in the competitiveness of our states
5 in leading our international position. We are tied with
6 South Carolina in the number of international companies
7 that either have their -- the largest workforce in the
8 state, or they have their corporate -- their U.S.
9 corporate headquarters here.

10 So, I think as the global economy
11 continues to be more a realistic economy for all of us,
12 we have a real strength in that regard. Over the last
13 couple of years it's been partly driven by the weak
14 dollar, and you know, having a weak dollar has its
15 strengths and weaknesses. That has really helped us in
16 the export arena.

17 But we have a really strong foothold in
18 international markets, and international headquarters
19 like to have their U.S. headquarters in this state. So,
20 that's a real positive that we're going to continue to
21 watch as time goes on.

22 We clearly have some challenges. And one
23 of the things that I've come to think about and spend
24 some time looking at in the three years that I've been

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1 here are some of those negatives. And I think we
2 sometimes tend to focus on what our challenges are
3 instead of highlighting what our advantages are. And
4 it's important that we have plans to address those
5 challenges, and we do have some big issues to deal with.

6 We have a lack of affordable housing, we
7 have an aging population. One of the statistics that we
8 don't like to talk about is the fact that we are number
9 three in the country as far as growth in aging
10 population. And then, you know, one of the statistics
11 that came out, I think it was the week before Christmas,
12 is that we're 49th as far as the happiest states in the
13 nation.

14 So, I guess we just don't have enough
15 mirth and senses of humor here in this state. But -- and
16 I guess it was some comfort that New York was right
17 behind us. Some of our near term challenges, we are
18 coming out of the foreclosure situation, although some of
19 the statistics are showing us right now that the first
20 wave was the subprime situation.

21 The foreclosures that are -- that we're
22 seeing more of right now is the result of unemployment,
23 the loss of one income in a two income household,
24 downsizing of jobs and reduction in salaries. And we

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1 don't really know how that's going to shake out over the
2 next year. It's something that economists vary on
3 approaches to it. Some believe that if we work with the
4 financial institutions and lenders and try to reset
5 mortgages, we're avoiding the inevitable.

6 We clearly have a debt situation and a
7 debt problem, personal and government in this state and
8 in this country. And our municipal services are highly
9 fragmented, and we have some significant structural
10 budget issues in this state that we have to deal with.

11 And depending on what day of the week it
12 is and who's doing the estimates, we are facing in this
13 current fiscal year anywhere from a 300 million to a 500
14 million dollar deficit. And by the time we start the
15 state fiscal year in July of 2011, which is the start of
16 the 2012 fiscal year, and the rainy day fund is depleted,
17 and the stimulus funds have expired, we will be facing as
18 a state a six billion dollar deficit if the revenues and
19 the expenditures continue on the path that they're on.

20 And that's not even focused on the
21 unfunded pension liabilities, and we are facing a
22 significant debt situation where our credit rating for
23 the state is in jeopardy. So, we have some serious
24 issues to contend with here in the state.

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1 But the economic outlook, if you look at
2 an economist's pure definition, we are rebounding. I
3 guess they all finally agreed, Stan, that the recession
4 did start in the last quarter of 2007. It looks like we
5 are now starting to see positive growth in the gross
6 domestic product. We'll be looking forward to see if
7 it's two consecutive quarters.

8 But we all know that employment is going
9 to lag, the GDP. One of the statistics that I always
10 find interesting is how the -- how employers have
11 adjusted their work week. Back in the fall -- through
12 the summer and in the fall, the average work week in this
13 country was 33.3 hours a week, which is the lowest it has
14 been since World War II.

15 And anybody that has gone through a
16 reduction in your salaries, a work week reduction,
17 furlough days, that's how that's -- that's how employers
18 around the country are looking at the issues. The last
19 thing employers want to do is -- and companies want to do
20 is layoffs. So, they will decrease the work week, etc.

21 And we're starting to see that turnaround,
22 so that -- but labor economist's are -- you know, some
23 labor economists are saying that we're going to have a
24 real bottleneck and we're going to have a real need for

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1 skilled workers sooner than people think because the
2 workforce that's there is over extended and they're
3 starting to feel burned out.

4 So, we are starting to see some signs but
5 our real employment growth probably won't start in this
6 state until the second quarter, third quarter of this
7 calendar year.

8 The plan, again remember how I started
9 out, it was a different time, it was a different sense.
10 We were looking at a responsible growth initiative, and
11 how we should -- how a strategic plan fits into that
12 model. So, we -- it's a plan, it addresses
13 competitiveness, and it gives a comprehensive vision.

14 It does not focus on any specific industry
15 per se, and over the last several months there's been a
16 significant discussion on clusters. This plan, by
17 design, focuses on all sectors. We made a decision early
18 on that we wanted to make sure the initiatives and the
19 vision that we put forward were open to any business and
20 any sector in this state.

21 And while we do know what our strengths
22 are, we know we have strength in insurance and financial
23 services, we know we have strengths in aerospace and
24 defense. We have a growing strength in the digital media

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1 arena, we have strength in bioscience and medical device.
2 But we want to make sure that any company and any
3 innovation that wants to grow here in Connecticut is --
4 has the right tools necessary.

5 Our vision is pretty straight forward, and
6 it's that Connecticut will have a vibrant, diversified,
7 and resilient economy that provides the highest quality
8 of life and access to opportunity for all. We basically
9 looked at the various areas that we were required to look
10 at as part of the statute. And embedded in these six
11 areas, seven areas, there are 15 or 16 areas that we were
12 specifically required to look at.

13 Stan and I often joke that the framers of
14 this statute were looking at us to solve the healthcare
15 crisis, and congress has stepped in. Whether they're
16 solving it or not is open to debate, but we focused on
17 the areas that are up here.

18 What we did is the body of the document
19 looks at our competitive analysis and our competitive
20 strengths in each of those areas, and what we then
21 focused on were creating initiatives that would deal with
22 our future. We grouped those initiatives and strategies
23 into three discreet areas, talent and technology,
24 cultivating competitiveness, and responsible growth.

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1 Talent and technology is not -- is a no
2 brainer, no pun intended, for us to be competitive. We
3 must have all of our efforts to facilitate a first class
4 workforce in a public education system by growing and
5 attracting new talent. The excellence in our education
6 and training systems will provide pathways and
7 opportunities for all.

8 To grow this talent the goals are simple,
9 we must ensure that all Connecticut children are ready
10 for kindergarten, we must increase high school completion
11 rates, particularly in our urban areas. I thought it was
12 -- I was reading -- speaking of urban areas, I was
13 reading an article the other day where, you know, the
14 fact that we don't have counties here in this state.

15 And around -- it's a national study that's
16 looking at, you know, are states now going to become
17 obsolete and are we going to be much more focused on our
18 urban areas. And I thought, oh that can be an
19 interesting public policy question for some folks to
20 consider.

21 So, our initiatives include creation of a
22 workforce and education cabinet, a student loan pool,
23 where students who go to school in Connecticut and remain
24 in Connecticut get a portion of their loan forgiven

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1 depending on how long they remain in Connecticut. It's
2 based on a model for how we do loan forgiveness for
3 companies that have -- that stay here for 10 years.

4 Our rationale is if individuals that go to
5 school here and work here, if they make a 10 year
6 commitment we can forgive their college loan. And it
7 would be pro-rata forgiveness up to that 10 year. We are
8 looking to fund that through public and private dollars.

9 We are proposing a C-Tech fund for the
10 21st century. Twenty years ago when Connecticut
11 Innovations was created it was ahead of its time, it was
12 a leader in what the world needs for innovation and
13 technology. We're still doing some great things there,
14 but we need to revamp it a little bit and add some
15 additional tools in the tool box. So, we're looking for
16 a 25 million dollar C-Tech for the 21st century.

17 We are also looking for a 25 -- we are
18 recommending a 25 million dollar international innovation
19 fund for start-up companies from international parts of
20 the world that locate here in Connecticut. These are
21 focused on the smaller, high-tech companies.

22 We are proposing an angel investor tax
23 credit. In one of our forums, a couple of our forums,
24 people have asked us to also consider venture capital tax

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1 credits, so we're going to take a look at that as well.
2 Talent and technology consortium, working with the deans
3 of the engineering schools and the business schools of
4 our universities and colleges here in this state to make
5 sure we have sufficient incubator space in line with the
6 students that go here, that we have enough programs, and
7 we have the innovations to keep them here.

8 And while I did say that we were not
9 focusing on any one area, what we are proposing is an
10 office of clinical trials in the bioscience arena. There
11 is such a lag time between research and development and
12 commercialization in the bioscience, and we believe the
13 roll that the state can play is to help to facilitate the
14 clinical trials and make it a little bit more customer
15 friendly. So, that is one area where we have ventured
16 off.

17 Competitiveness, much has been written
18 about how Connecticut is losing its competitive advantage
19 because of the high cost of doing business and our
20 unfriendly attitude. So, we feel that this area is
21 something that really needs to be focused on.

22 First and foremost, reexamine the overall
23 tax structure, which includes the local real property tax
24 structure and just revamp it. Reform the budget process.

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1 As I mentioned, the state of Connecticut is facing a
2 fiscal crisis. And it's not just borne out in the
3 deficit numbers, it's in the long-term structural issues
4 as I mentioned, funding the pension liability, using
5 public debt for what it is intended for, which are
6 buildings such as this, roads, bridges, water, sewers.

7 We are thrilled that many of our business
8 partners have been at the forefront of reforming this
9 budget process, CBIA, the Metro-Hartford Alliance has
10 really -- and a lot of our partners along the way feel
11 that this is also very critical to our future success.

12 Reducing the number of representatives in
13 the Connecticut legislature. This has probably been one
14 of our more controversial initiatives, but we thought
15 that since we are initiating a census count here in the
16 state as all the other 49 states are doing, it was a good
17 opportunity just as congress takes a look at where
18 they're numbers are, maybe we don't need to have a
19 legislature that's quite as large as it is.

20 Stan is part of the group that's going to
21 be leading our state census process here in a few weeks,
22 and in fact when one of the forums -- a couple of the
23 forums that I've been at it's been suggested that maybe
24 local governments should also take a look at the size of

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1 their councils and -- etc. So, we think that's something
2 that we'll hopefully be taking a look at.

3 State marketing fund, this is not a
4 complicated or new idea in that all it requires is money.
5 And we know the state needs to be marketed much more. We
6 have been partnering with our colleagues at the
7 utilities, we have been partnering with our colleagues at
8 CERC and doing what we can with the resources that we
9 can, but we need to do more.

10 And it goes back to what I said when I
11 opened, which is you know, we have some great things to
12 offer here in this state, but if we don't tell people
13 outside of this state and outside of the country, we
14 can't continue to be the quiet corner. And that's the
15 whole state.

16 Promote regionalism. When I came here
17 many people advised me that we would never, ever change
18 the mentality of the 169 towns. We are not all the way
19 there yet, but great strides have been made.
20 Regionalism, just like budget reform, is at the forefront
21 of civic and business organizations around the state.

22 Many people are talking about it, I believe
23 -- whether it's the budget crisis that has forced us or
24 not, it is a good thing. We have many examples of where

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1 regionalism is working, and we are excited that it is
2 moving forward. And that's a perfect segue onto the
3 responsible growth agenda.

4 Many of these also are items that have
5 been on other people's agendas and other people's
6 recommendations. They seem to be gaining traction,
7 partly driven by the stimulus package, partly by the fact
8 that there is a recognition that we have to make
9 investments in our public infrastructure, and that we
10 have to make sure that they are done wisely.

11 We are recommending a responsible growth
12 cabinet, Maritime Investment Fund, which would be coupled
13 with a -- an independent port authority, separating it
14 out from Connecticut DOT. Separating out Bradley Airport
15 from DOT, making them a quasi or privatized, whichever
16 works best.

17 Responsible growth for the 21st Century
18 Fund, we are stealing a page from our sister state of
19 Massachusetts, where they take all their discretionary
20 funding, whether it's urban act funds, small cities
21 funds, steep grants, water resources funds administered
22 by DEP. We have a lot of money, and if we invest it
23 wisely and use it as an incentive for towns that promote
24 regionalism that work together and that increase their

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1 density, we will be in the right path.

2 So, that is a flavor of the 66
3 initiatives, the highlights. Where we are right now in
4 the process, as Stan and I both mentioned, the Governor
5 released the plan in September and directed us to have
6 these public forums, to get public input, to continue the
7 dialogue, because when we kicked it off the environment
8 and the economy were much different than they are today.

9 And we will be taking the comments,
10 engaging in the dialogue, and some of our proposals that
11 require legislation are in our legislative packet that
12 will be submitted to the legislature. Some of the
13 initiatives are administrative and we're moving ahead on
14 those. The ones that cost money we're trying to be
15 creative about how we can move those forward also.

16 So, that's where we are. Here at the
17 public comment period we'll take people's comments, and
18 there's also an opportunity to present comments at the --
19 on our website. So, with that, we'll start the public
20 comment process. Okay? Roger Stotz?

21 MR. ROGER STOTZ: Yes, my name is Roger
22 Stotz. I'm a small business person in the state of
23 Connecticut. The last name is S-T-O-T-Z. One, I applaud
24 the idea that we're actually as a state looking into and

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1 trying to develop an economic competitive plan.

2 A couple of comments in no particular
3 order, would be to look at what's happening in the world
4 of technology in your marketing plan. And one of things
5 that we talked before the session about marketing, is
6 there's so much going on in terms of social media.

7 And one of the things that we're seeing in
8 business is something called an employment brand. And
9 many organizations, as they search for talent -- and
10 right now there's no shortage of workers, but we do find
11 a shortage of talent depending on what you're looking
12 for, particularly as the population ages. And certain
13 talents tend to evaporate as they retire.

14 And what happens is that through social
15 networking the talent pool is comparing notes moment by
16 moment, not annually, not weekly --

17 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

18 MR. STOTZ: -- but every minute. And so,
19 the employment brand for an organization is determined
20 not by marketing, but by the social networking and the
21 feedback that people are sharing about it. And I would
22 only comment that I think our state also has a brand.

23 And as you talk about marketing the first
24 thing we have to do is work, I think, on getting those of

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1 us in the state as well as the employees in the state,
2 the management in the state, and the government in the
3 state to really start creating a positive image in terms
4 of what the strengths are. And more importantly, taking
5 decisive action on the areas of the threats and the other
6 challenges that you outlined, and so I think in terms of
7 that.

8 The other thing I would mention is you
9 started to talk a little bit at the end of your comments
10 about the execution of the plan. And again, as we were
11 talking prior to the session, the issue in terms of those
12 of us in business who create strategic plans, know that
13 plan's only, you know, is as good as you execute.
14 There's a lot of paper and a lot of trees that have died
15 putting plans together.

16 And I guess, I haven't had the chance to
17 read the whole plan, but I'm looking forward to going
18 through it in terms of seeing how do we get all the
19 constituencies that you've got to deal with to really
20 execute. And that would be something I'd like to hear
21 more about.

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

23 MR. STOTZ: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you.

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1 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: John Cattelan?

3 MR. JOHN CATTELAN: Good evening.

4 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: How are you?

5 MR. CATTELAN: Thanks for letting us out
6 before the football game starts tonight.

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Oh, right.

8 MR. CATTELAN: John Cattelan, C-A-T-T-E-L-
9 A-N. Commissioner McDonald, I'd like to thank you for
10 the opportunity to address you and your staff tonight at
11 the Department of Economic and Community Development. My
12 name is John Cattelan, I'm the Director of the
13 Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents.

14 Tonight I would specifically like to
15 address the workforce and education section of the
16 strategic plan. The section refers to many of the
17 problems facing Connecticut school children, but fails to
18 mention the success of Connecticut's catholic schools and
19 how they may be able to address some of the concerns in
20 the plan, specifically Connecticut's achievement gap and
21 preparing students for higher education.

22 Currently there are 136 catholic schools
23 in Connecticut educating 33 thousand students with an
24 enrollment of 16 percent of minority students. During

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1 the past 10 years, however, 19 catholic schools have
2 closed, attendance has declined by 8,000 students which
3 has cost the tax payers of the state approximately 90
4 million dollars. I'd also like to note these same
5 catholic schools do currently save the tax payers of this
6 state 400 million dollars.

7 The achievement gap between the minority
8 and white students is something that our catholic schools
9 are very concerned about, along with preparing students
10 for the future. While our schools can't solve this
11 problem alone, we know our schools can play an important
12 role in eliminating this problem.

13 Our schools are already diverse and our
14 success in educating -- and are successful in educating
15 inner city students. Our catholic school elementary --
16 our catholic elementary schools are performing two to
17 three grade levels above the norm in Iowa testing, our
18 high schools have a 99 percent graduation rate, and are
19 scoring above average on SAT's compared to the national
20 and state averages.

21 Last year the Connecticut Federation of
22 Catholic School Parents created, "Parents for Education
23 Reform." And introduced a legislative proposal that
24 would create a tax credit for C-Corporations that donate

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1 to scholarship funds. Unfortunately, the proposal was
2 not acted on by the General Assembly.

3 The proposal did gain the support of many
4 large city mayors from both political parties, and
5 community organizations, and Connecticut's entire private
6 and religious school community. Scholarships would only
7 be given to children from distressed municipalities whose
8 family income does not exceed 250 percent of the income
9 requirements of the federal poverty line.

10 Only students entering kindergarten or
11 transferring to a private or religious school would be
12 eligible for the scholarships, and the scholarships would
13 be capped at \$2,500 dollars per student.

14 During these uncertain economic times the
15 state of Connecticut needs to consider alternatives to
16 address the achievement gap and preparing students for
17 higher education, and that have a limited impact on our
18 state budget. The state of Connecticut needs to strongly
19 consider building on something that has a proven track
20 record, and that would be Connecticut's catholic schools.

21 I hope the department will consider
22 including the tax credit proposal and other solutions to
23 assist Connecticut's catholic schools. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you.

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1 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: David Fearon?

3 MR. DAVID FEARON: Sorry about the bad
4 handwriting.

5 DR. MCMILLEN: Could you spell your last
6 name, sir?

7 MR. FEARON: It's F-E-A-R-O-N, David
8 Fearon.

9 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Fearon, okay.

10 MR. FEARON: This is actually where I
11 work.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

13 MR. FEARON: Well, not right in this room
14 but on either side. This is one of the buildings here at
15 Central Connecticut State University where four or five
16 hundred of us who are professors, as well as another
17 several hundred staff persons working at every level come
18 pretty much every day and work very hard.

19 We are, I think, at the heart of at least
20 the workforce aspect of your plan. We, being the
21 teachers, and those who support us so we can do our job.
22 So, in a way I speak for not the University system, but
23 for those of us who work directly with the young people
24 and not so young people who are coming in to the --

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1 particularly the public higher education system.

2 I must tell you that in 24 years here at
3 Central Connecticut State University, up until this year
4 I've never had much doubt that we could fulfill our
5 promise, come with a dream, and leave with a future. And
6 now I do have that doubt.

7 And it's not because of our efforts of
8 flagging, even though we have lost a lot of good people
9 to the early retirement and having a very tough time
10 looking forward to replacing them. That has been
11 somewhat of a chilling issue. But what's more chilling
12 is the indefiniteness now, that I'm seeing first hand.

13 Juniors looking with dread at 11 and 12
14 current seniors, some who finished in December right to
15 this afternoon, emailing me, Doc is there anything --
16 anyone you can speak to anywhere, I just need to work.

17 And so, we have tremendous common cause,
18 we who are teaching at every level including the catholic
19 school teachers, we have common cause with any effort
20 that our state government and our departments of
21 government can make to work on the brand to give young
22 people more reason to be hopeful.

23 My focus for the next three years until I
24 retire will be on job creation. Anything that I can do

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1 here on campus out in the community, it's the job
2 creation process that will give me hope. Certainly
3 keeping jobs, definitely, but job creation means that
4 innovation is kicking in that -- the pent up talent that
5 I see in the young people to have really creative
6 solutions will get released into the kinds of jobs that
7 are going o make us really in demand worldwide.

8 So, I congratulate you on this effort and
9 please know that all of us teachers are very, very eager
10 to have success come through this plan.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah, I think you
12 make a very good point, as did the speaker in front of
13 you. The enrollment in our community colleges and our
14 state university has just exploded. And from a talent
15 standpoint that's fabulous.

16 MR. FEARON: Yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And you're
18 absolutely right, we need to make sure -- and that's what
19 a lot of this focus is on, is to make sure that we have
20 sufficient incubator space, sufficient mentors for the
21 people -- and they're all ages coming out of the
22 community colleges, out of the colleges and universities
23 to whatever they want to do, and tap into that retired
24 workforce who may not want to retire full time, but might

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1 want to mentor or provide guidance.

2 And that's a lot of what we need to short-
3 term channel our energies into. And we congratulate what
4 you're doing here.

5 MR. FEARON: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thanks.

7 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Jack Antonich?

9 Hello, Jack.

10 MR. JACK ANTONICH: A few minutes is not
11 enough.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: No, you can --
13 we're bending the rules --

14 MR. ANTONICH: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: So, go ahead. We
16 try to be flexible.

17 MR. ANTONICH: Alright. Thanks very much
18 for the opportunity to come and speak. I will touch on
19 some of the high points --

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Spell your last
21 name just for the --

22 MR. ANTONICH: Antonich, Jack Antonich. I
23 am an independent consultant, I've lived in Connecticut
24 for about 30 years now. I currently facilitate the

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1 Kaufmann Foundation Fast Track Entrepreneurial and
2 Business Growth program in the state here. And I've been
3 involved with various job creation type projects in the
4 past.

5 I was looking forward to receiving the
6 plan for quite a while now. And once it arrived I went
7 through it. I was very surprised to find, however, that
8 it being an economic development plan that in my mind it
9 didn't really have a lot to do with addressing the
10 economy.

11 And you know, to me the economy in terms
12 of basic definition, is the production, distribution, and
13 consumption of goods and services. And that is a
14 business function, that's what business and industry
15 does, okay? The government has a role in this, but the
16 government is not responsible for performing that
17 function. That's a business and industry function.

18 So, I was very surprised to see that there
19 wasn't very much of a mention in this rather lengthy plan
20 that talked about the challenges that businesses have in
21 the state, why we're in the situation that we're in right
22 now, which is pretty much of a dilemma.

23 And I say that because on a face-to-face
24 basis I come across people -- people with advanced

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1 degrees from RPI that are working at Home Depot because
2 the can't find a job. Somebody with an advanced degree
3 that's been out of work for 14 months that can't come up
4 with a job.

5 Yesterday I was at the meeting where
6 Representative Congressman Larson had a meeting with some
7 business people in Hartford. And these are people that
8 stood up and say you know my -- I'm going to lose my
9 home, I'm in debt. You know, my business is going down
10 the tubes, we need some sort of assistance, we need
11 something to happen.

12 But I don't know that enough work has been
13 done to identify the root cause of the problem that we're
14 experiencing in the state here. And it's not just within
15 the state, this is a national problem --

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

17 MR. ANTONICH: -- that we're experiencing,
18 oaky? And we've been talking about the world is flat for
19 a few years now. It's no secret that we've relinquished
20 a lot of industries to other countries, and I don't think
21 it's any secret about the lack of -- or, let's say the
22 uncompetitive nature of where we are in the world today.

23 Now, we can look at that on a national
24 level, but at some point in time, over time, that filters

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1 down to the smaller businesses that rely on what's going
2 on overall with every other business. So, I guess my
3 first recommendation is that to go in and to spend more
4 time taking a look at this whole situation from a
5 business perspective and understanding what it really
6 means to build a robust economy.

7 To have businesses out there functioning
8 and doing what they're supposed to be doing in a very
9 competitive manner, and trying to at the same time figure
10 out how the state can help in supporting that effort.
11 Not do it, we don't look to the state --

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

13 MR. ANTONICH: -- to say that the state
14 should go out and create jobs. But we do look for a
15 recognition that that's what business and industry does,
16 and everybody should be looking at what can we do to help
17 them.

18 And when I talk about business, my other
19 recommendation is that you look at both large businesses
20 and small businesses separately because they have very
21 different requirements, okay? The big businesses pretty
22 much self sufficient, access to resources, know where
23 they're going, actually able to take advantage of a lot
24 of those situations that have to go with the global

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1 situation in taking advantage of lower cost resources.

2 Smaller companies, on the other hand, they
3 need the help, they need a lot of resources. What I saw
4 in terms of statistics, there are 92,000 companies in the
5 state of Connecticut, small companies that's less than
6 100 employees that employ people, 92,000, okay? That's
7 an area that you should focus on. You should focus on
8 figuring out how to help all of those businesses across
9 the board.

10 And I'm not saying neglect the larger
11 businesses, because we all know that they're extremely
12 important, but they need to be worked with in a different
13 way than the smaller companies.

14 What can the state do in that area? As
15 I've been traveling around and working with a lot of
16 different organizations, I found out that there's an
17 awful lot in the state here relative to providing
18 resources to businesses. There are -- now, I have to get
19 back to where the point -- can you switch back there and
20 put my brain back at the point that --

21 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: You were -- when
22 you've been taking there are a lot of resources --

23 MR. ANTONICH: I got it. That there are a
24 lot of resources there but you know, we live in sort of a

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1 fragmented state, you mentioned the 169 towns and
2 everything, we're fragmented in a lot of other ways in
3 terms of these organizations --

4 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

5 MR. ANTONICH: -- that supply services,
6 resources, but they're only to an area. So, we've met
7 before and I've come to you and said, one of the things
8 that we have to address is collaboration.

9 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

10 MR. ANTONICH: We have to figure out ways
11 to be more collaborative in what we do to start thinking
12 as one, as one state. Not this section, that geographic
13 area, this industry group over there, because it really
14 is all about business. So, my -- one recommendation is
15 think more in terms of collaboration.

16 And I'll just go through a couple of other
17 things in a quick list fashion because I'll take up too
18 much time here. I think overall there has to be a
19 greater degree of urgency attached to all of this. It's
20 extremely important, and I don't have a rosy outlook on
21 what's coming down the pike. I think it actually is
22 going to get worse before it gets better.

23 You can disagree with me and say we've
24 turned a corner and things are looking good because we

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1 lost fewer jobs this month than we lost last month, but
2 I'm not exactly buying that. I think when you come back
3 with the plan in its final version you should look at
4 short-term and long-term with the real focus on the
5 short-term. And the short-term should be focused on job
6 creation.

7 I think that's paramount, that we have to
8 get back to the point where we improve people's earning
9 ability and that they're able to go out there and get
10 jobs, and earn incomes, and let them pay their bills and
11 achieve that standard of living that you were talking
12 about before.

13 Okay, reduce the size of the report. You
14 know, knock out some of the non-pertinent information,
15 the historical stuff and things like that that we don't
16 really need. And I would say overall try and think in
17 terms of achieving a leadership position in communicating
18 the vision of what Connecticut is as a competitive
19 Connecticut. And where we really fit you know, in the
20 nation and in the world.

21 And the last thing I will mention is what
22 I've been doing personally, which is what I also met with
23 you in the past, is that I am continuing my own personal
24 effort in driving the Fast Track Entrepreneurial Program.

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1 And I've had some success in working in the collaboration
2 area with the Metro Hartford Alliance, the University of
3 Hartford Entrepreneurial Center, Connecticut Technology
4 Council, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology,
5 Score, SBDC.

6 And other people have exhibited interest
7 in working in a collaborative manner to try to figure out
8 how we can all work together to get those resources out
9 to the businesses that really are going to drive our
10 economy in the future. So, I would just ask for your
11 support in that area.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

13 MR. ANTONICH: Okay? Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Great.

15 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thanks. Joseph
17 Camean?

18 MR. JOSEPH CAMEAN: Yes. My name is
19 Joseph Camean, I'm from Old Lyme. I'm a professional
20 engineer, I'm a partner in a consulting engineering firm
21 called, Van Zelm Engineers. We are mechanical and
22 electrical engineers. I'm also Economical Development
23 Commissioner for the town of Old Lyme. But I'm coming
24 here as citizen Joe Camean just to speak some opinions.

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1 I commend the effort put into the plan, I
2 think it's a very important and necessary, should we say,
3 piece of work. I also concur with one of the previous
4 speakers, that I do think it's way, way too dense. I
5 think much of the information should be appendices --

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

7 MR. CAMEAN: -- and the plan should be
8 streamlined. And it should be streamlined into
9 actionable items. There's some of that, I see, as you go
10 into your vision and then some of the measures. My
11 biggest concern, I see Connecticut as a state that
12 accumulated a tremendous quality of life, of affluence,
13 of wealth, and it was really the creation of wealth that
14 occurred here.

15 You know, the Yankee ingenuity, every
16 economic development instrument I've ever looked at
17 always initiates with our proud history. And the trouble
18 is that's history.

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

20 MR. CAMEAN: We need to look forward and
21 let's make some new history. Over my time I have been a
22 resident of Old Lyme now for 25 plus years. I've spent
23 my time in this state working as an engineer, most of
24 that as a consulting engineer. And I've been a witness

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1 to what we had 25 years ago in the way of manufacturing
2 companies large and small, and I've seen the complete
3 unraveling of all of that.

4 And I've also seen the kind of talent that
5 we had, and the skills of the people that made those
6 businesses go. In many cases the founders would age out
7 and then there was no one to pick up from them. So, my
8 first point I'd like to make, you did address very
9 appropriately talent and technology.

10 I think that your educational system needs
11 to be rethought in a much different way. We are not
12 spawning, if you will, new young people that are the
13 likes of Mr. Pratt and Mr. Whitney, or Fredrick
14 Rentschler, or Igor Sikorsky. I mean, obviously some of
15 these people were immigrants. We were a melting pot, New
16 Britain probably being one of the greatest examples of
17 that.

18 But what we're seeing is that no new
19 people of this genre are emerging. And why not? And I
20 think because we have morphed our educational system so
21 far away from what used to be called the industrial arts.
22 And it doesn't matter -- I mean, I'm not saying that it's
23 exclusively producing people that can weld, or can wire
24 electrical panels.

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1 But you know, the ability to do
2 agriculture, the ability to do textiles, the ability to
3 do you know, any number of things, we have frowned, we
4 have shut down all the shop classes. I recently read the
5 book, I think it's titled, "Shop Class as Soulcraft."

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

7 MR. CAMEAN: But it speaks very much to
8 that issue. I'm of the mind that every child perhaps at
9 the middle school, high school level, should be given
10 just a snapshot, every child should strike a weld arc and
11 fuse two pieces of metal together. Some of them will be
12 scared out of their wits and never want to go near it
13 again, some will be inspired by the electric arc and what
14 electricity is, some will be inspired by the metallurgy
15 of melt and metal moving around and re-solidifying.

16 And the point I'm getting as it, we need
17 to restore those kinds of skills. Why aren't we
18 producing new machines, why aren't we producing durable
19 goods for export? So, I won't belabor it, but I mean I
20 think there's quite a bit of attention that needs to be
21 drilled into, maybe looking back at how did we do it
22 years ago before we abandoned all of our shop facilities?

23 I will tell you in my work as an engineer,
24 and I look at the caliber of the construction trades,

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1 which are the dominant you know, if you will, technical
2 skills, manual art that still exist, we have some
3 brilliant people that are in the trades. They have the
4 capability if the platform is afforded them, to put us
5 back in the game of making real things.

6 Whether it's electric automobiles -- I
7 don't have all the facts, I didn't have time to research.
8 But we just purchased 300 railroad cars from Kawasaki.
9 We build in Connecticut helicopters --

10 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

11 MR. CAMEAN: Some of the bigger ones are
12 like busses. I would suggest that the interior of a
13 large helicopter might not be far apart from the interior
14 of building a railcar.

15 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

16 MR. CAMEAN: Granted, defense work whole
17 different element. But the fundamental skills are still
18 resident in our state. Why are we buying from Kawasaki?
19 That's a big order. Similarly, the electric traction
20 motors that are used on such railway equipment, one of
21 the firms that I do business with is in North Haven or --
22 I believe it's North Haven, border of North Haven/New
23 Haven --

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

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1 MR. CAMEAN: -- Schultz Electric. They've
2 got the capability to fabricate 6,000 horse power motors.
3 They actually do a considerable amount of work for rail
4 traction equipment. So, again you know, they're a repair
5 shop but the skills are still there.

6 I think we need to start really rethinking
7 how do we get motivated young people, and people that are
8 already mature people, that have skills that can produce
9 durable goods back in the game.

10 I also think that at the higher level
11 education, university -- and I'm speaking as an engineer,
12 it's my expertise, my piece of the world, we have morphed
13 from what used to be a theoretical plus technical
14 education, at least in engineering, and I think in many
15 of the other disciplines similar things have happened.

16 You know, we produce electrical engineers
17 now that understand four computer programming languages
18 but couldn't wire a house. Right, that's a big issue.

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

20 MR. CAMEAN: Waterbury State Technical
21 College, I have an engineering handbook written by a
22 couple of professors from there, I shamefully don't know
23 their names. But the preface to the book talked about
24 the transition to four year programs in engineering, and

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1 the authors lamented that the technical colleges became
2 the last bastion of how to really make real things.

3 That we are producing four year degreed
4 technical people in engineering, in other sciences. You
5 know, you produce a chemist that couldn't put together
6 the apparatus to produce product. You know, once upon a
7 time in Groton we had a chemical process plant --

8 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

9 MR. CAMEAN: -- we had chemical plants,
10 Uniroyal, massive chemical plant. Unbelievable plethora
11 of products. Right now if we don't act to try and
12 capture what's left of expertise, we don't have the
13 wherewithal to know how to build, you know, the tanks,
14 and the pumps, and the vats, and the pipes, and the
15 mixers, and so on. This is precious knowledge that we
16 need to restore.

17 I also think the demise of industrial
18 research, and I think university research. You know the
19 most famous industrial research enterprises were Bell
20 Labs, were General Electric's industrial research labs
21 that I am familiar with. But you know, UTC, when it was
22 United Aircraft had an unbelievable facility that
23 produced considerable new invention.

24 Without being unfair to UTC, they haven't

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1 really produced anything. They pretty much are working
2 with the same products and just revising, and changing,
3 and tweaking. You know, we tweak, but we don't initiate.
4 Why? Is there anything that can be done -- and it
5 probably does go back to the educational issue. You
6 know, you need somebody like an Igor Sikorsky who's going
7 to propose you know, an aircraft that goes vertically up.

8 So, I feel that can we change the way that
9 industrial research can be fostered here? And I do think
10 that will come through the academic sector.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

12 MR. CAMEAN: But again, the academic
13 sector has to get reinvested. Maybe there's a need to do
14 something through the technical colleges, you know, to
15 maybe re-inject. Because the technical colleges are
16 brining -- I've done some lectures --

17 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

18 MR. CAMEAN: -- now, and what I'm finding
19 is students that already have a Bachelor's degree are
20 going to the technical colleges to have skills --

21 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: To compliment --

22 MR. CAMEAN: -- that will empower them to
23 earn a living. One of the previous speakers was
24 lamenting that we have college graduates that are working

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1 in lesser jobs. That's as much as I want to volunteer
2 because I didn't want to violate the three minute rule.

3 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Oh, that's okay.

4 MR. CAMEAN: So, thank you so much for
5 letting me speak.

6 DR. MCMILLEN: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Are there any
8 other speakers?

9 DR. MCMILLEN: Well --

10 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay. Paul
11 Zigorsky? Zigorsky, okay.

12 MR. PAUL ZIGORSKY: Good evening.

13 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Good evening.

14 MR. ZIGORSKY: I'm Paul Zigorsky, I live
15 in New Britain. I'm also employed locally. I am on the
16 City Plan Commission. One of our charges this year is
17 implementing a new master plan for the city of New
18 Britain.

19 Just by way of background, I was born here
20 as I said, and I live here, and I work here. My parents
21 did the same, they grew up in New Britain and they lived
22 here. Almost the entire neighborhood that I grew up --
23 you know, that's the way it was.

24 And I say that by way of background

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1 because at one time, and I don't think I'm saying
2 anything that people aren't aware of, a large percentage
3 of people both lived and worked in the city of New
4 Britain. At this point in time according to the latest
5 data, 18 percent of the workers employed in the city live
6 in the city.

7 And I think when I'm reading what you had
8 put forth, and I think it's really absent, is I'm really
9 seeing an absence of the need to encourage and promote
10 home ownership in proximity --

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: To work.

12 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- to employment. And I
13 think that is an issue on a number of levels. One,
14 there's a lot of discussion in the plan about promoting
15 green industries. Well, I think you know, if you want to
16 promote green industries, you know promote industries
17 that employ people who live in proximity to where they
18 work, because you're lessening transportation costs.

19 And obviously as a state, I think we have
20 to deal with the fact that the reality is we're going to
21 have to do a lot less with a lot less money --

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

23 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- because it's just not
24 going to be there. Transportation is an issue that is a

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1 crisis I think, for the state of Connecticut. Like I
2 said, we have you know 72 percent -- oh no, 82 percent of
3 the people in New Britain --

4 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Come from the
5 outside.

6 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- they're on the highways,
7 they're driving around. Traffic, I think everybody here
8 can agree, is horrible. Your lessening the cost and some
9 of it is affordability issues, some of it is expenses.

10 I know the FHA, the Federal Housing
11 Administration, I believe has a program which talked
12 about allotting a higher percentage of income for people
13 who lived local toward their mortgage payments because
14 the transportation costs are less.

15 And you know, what I'm looking at is I saw
16 in the -- I think the section cultivate competitiveness,
17 there were two items. There was one that said location
18 efficient mortgages --

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

20 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- encourage home ownership
21 in proximity to transit. My feeling is -- should be --
22 you should encourage homeownership in proximity to
23 employment.

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: To employment.

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1 MR. ZIGORSKY: Because for instance, we
2 have Aetna that's moving from Middletown to Hartford with
3 I don't know how many thousands of jobs, but I would say
4 the percentage of people who are living in Hartford are
5 those people transferred -- if it's 10 percent I'd be
6 absolutely amazed.

7 So, what that's doing to our
8 infrastructure is just making it worse. Is that
9 improving the quality of life for people who live in
10 Hartford who are not employed there? Absolutely not.
11 You know, and then there was another item, I believe it
12 was number eight, that it talked about you know, learn
13 here live here. I agree with that, but I think it should
14 be you know, live here, work here.

15 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Work here, okay.

16 MR. ZIGORSKY: And I think you know,
17 people and employers are responsive to tax incentives.
18 And we're always giving employers incentives to locate to
19 a different community, but we aren't giving them any
20 incentives to --

21 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: To stay.

22 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- have ties to the
23 community. And I think if the employers are giving
24 incentives to hire locally that that, you know, may

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1 affect them, that they get a tax credit along those
2 lines. And the other thing I think should be is that if
3 somebody is living and working in the city and they're
4 employed by a city employee, then perhaps there should be
5 a credit, whether it's a municipal credit or how it's
6 handled through the state, but I think you know green is
7 in, transit issues are at a crisis.

8 And you know, for instance, New Britain
9 has a proposed bus way. I mean, realistically you know,
10 does the state have a half a billion dollars to invest on
11 something that is going to do this? I mean, perhaps,
12 like I said you know, live local and stay --

13 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And work local.

14 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- local. And I think
15 that's a lot less burden on the state as a whole, which
16 means less expenses for the state as a whole.

17 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And I think you
18 know, picking up on the point that Jack made with the
19 92,000 small businesses --

20 MR. ZIGORSKY: Absolutely.

21 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- businesses that
22 are less than 100 --

23 MR. ZIGORSKY: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- you know,

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1 they're going to continue to grow.

2 MR. ZIGORSKY: Yeah, I mean I'm a small
3 business owner --

4 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

5 MR. ZIGORSKY: -- I live here. I'm
6 concerned with the fact that you know every time I see an
7 expense with the state of Connecticut it goes up 25, 30
8 percent. And it's tough, I mean it is tough. It's tough
9 to function. I mean, it's survival mode. And I agree
10 with some of the comments that they made.

11 I mean, I'm an Attorney, in terms of the
12 foreclosure crisis and things of that nature, I think the
13 next one or two years are going to be worse. Because a
14 lot of businesses were -- you know, you look at the
15 employment rate, but look at the under employment rate.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yes.

17 MR. ZIGORSKY: That's phenomenal.

18 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

19 MR. ZIGORSKY: So, thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you.

21 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Appreciate it.

23 Jacob Werblow?

24 MR. JACOB WERBLOW: Werblow.

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1 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

2 MR. WERBLOW: Close enough.

3 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay, well the "R"
4 looked like an "I," Werblow. Okay.

5 MR. WERBLOW: So, that's W-E-R-B-L-O-W.

6 And so, thank you for giving us all time to speak, those
7 of us who did. Just a few things. First, I just want to
8 apologize, that was my cell phone. I have a five month
9 old baby girl, so I'll use --

10 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: She called you.

11 MR. WERBLOW: -- a few of my seconds to
12 say that. Yeah, she's in the gifted program. So, she's
13 fast tracked.

14 A few things that may or may not be
15 feasible, but I think that it's -- it is appropriate to
16 put them out there so that we're all aware of funding and
17 where funding comes from, and where maybe we might look
18 for more funding.

19 So, just keeping in mind the -- a federal
20 budget and -- so, we know that about 50 percent of our
21 federal tax dollars, our federal spending goes to
22 military, goes to either current military operations or
23 paying for past military operations. So, how much do we
24 have control over that here in Connecticut? I don't know

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1 but it's just -- it's important to think about that as a
2 state, you know as a democratic you know state.

3 And so, that I'm sure we can redirect some
4 of that money if it were possible, into maybe to address
5 some of these issues that we face here in Connecticut,
6 and then of course, all other states are struggling with.

7 Other things that I think are important,
8 also mentioned, legalizing some of the more social drugs,
9 so say, marijuana. I'm not a marijuana smoker myself,
10 but looking at California, looking at you know, the
11 Netherlands, this is -- the war on drugs if you can't win
12 it, and you don't have resource to really support, why
13 you should be fighting it anyway.

14 That's money that could be a revenue
15 generator for this state where we're -- instead of we're
16 spending money to fight something that we're not winning,
17 right? And the rationale maybe is not very good that we
18 should be fighting this war to begin with. So, I'll just
19 put that out there.

20 And also, looking at you know, taxing the
21 super rich. If we look at, you know, federal data, I
22 don't have state data, but if we look at federal data
23 from 40 years ago, we looked much more like you know the
24 Scandinavian countries in terms of our taxing structure.

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1 And that has sort of been cut, and cut, and cut into what
2 we have sort of this -- something that is not progressive
3 anymore. So, looking at a progressive taxing.

4 Just look historically, we don't have to
5 go very far to look at what we used to do and maybe --
6 you know, maybe that's another way to build revenue. So,
7 taking -- even if we were to enact one of those three
8 ideas, we could you know redirect that into lower cost
9 universities, you know, state universities and also early
10 child care education. That will hold people here.

11 If our you know, state universities are
12 the same costs comparably as the California schools, that
13 will hold people in this state. So just -- those are
14 some -- one way to sort of close that loop. Quick
15 mention of biodiesel fuel, if it comes from veggie oil
16 it's much more greener. Veggie oil is you know, coming
17 from a restaurant that's already used it. You can pick
18 it up, you can recycle that.

19 If you're getting it from corn, bio-
20 ethanol, just look at the research behind that.
21 Especially with corn, the -- when you look at the entire
22 cycle of the waste and the energy used to produce the
23 corn, it's actually worse off than using fossil fuels to
24 begin with. So, it's just -- I saw a lot of mention of

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1 biodiesel with the state fleet, etc. So, just look at
2 where you're getting the biodiesel from.

3 Okay, moving onto the achievement gap,
4 this is more of my background. I'm a professor here in
5 teacher education. So, just a few things. We often talk
6 about closing the achievement gap, but we don't talk
7 about closing the income gap. Right? And so there's --
8 and that's the correlation, right?

9 There's no secret that Connecticut has the
10 largest income gap and also the largest achievement gap.
11 But we often talk about the ladder, the achievement gap.
12 So, if you look at, you know -- so, how do we address
13 that? So, one way is to really look at segregated
14 schools. Of course you have to follow that to segregated
15 communities.

16 And if we look to desegregate our
17 communities by you know putting lower income, mixed
18 income housing in some of the more elite, some of the
19 more prestigious neighborhoods of our state, you will
20 simply close the achievement gap just by that.

21 It's just like a first grade, you know,
22 elementary school teacher if they have low readers here
23 and high readers here, you can keep them separate, but if
24 you mix them they all do better, they all do better.

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1 And you can look at-- that's reading
2 research, and that's also the same research with
3 communities. They did that -- they did actually that in
4 Chicago, I can get you that study. It's a Suarez and
5 Osaro that were the authors.

6 And they actually replicated that with
7 people in Chicago and they found that longitudinally both
8 parents, both the adults and the children both did better
9 in the suburbs, just by moving them to a different
10 geographic location. That's where the jobs are, that's
11 where the better schools are, right?

12 Even though the kids faced more racism
13 they first had lower grades, lower GPA, but they all
14 overall had a higher graduation rate, higher college
15 attainment rate just by moving the same kids into a
16 different neighborhood. It works just with children in
17 the classroom.

18 I also say I hate to burst the bubble of
19 the catholic schools, but if you just look at the
20 research on private schools, it really has to do with the
21 size of the schools and the income of the parents. Once
22 you control for income and you control for school size,
23 there really isn't a private school effect -- that's not
24 my personal belief, but that's just the research behind

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1 school effects research. And I could get you those
2 studies as well.

3 So, school funding there's a recent report
4 coming out that really recommends money following the
5 child, right? And if we move to some -- to a -- you know
6 funding stream that looks more like that, that's just
7 more equitable for all schools.

8 So, for example, you know, New Britain
9 school district has 400 homeless children in New Britain.
10 Right, 400 homeless children in New Britain. Just a
11 comparison, my high school in Durham, Connecticut where I
12 grew up had 400 children in the whole high school.
13 Right, so imagine that, one district has 400 homeless
14 children in New Britain.

15 And so, what that means with you know,
16 funding, say if that homeless child moves out to say, is
17 living on a couch with a neighbor or with a you know, an
18 uncle in Farmington, and this actually does happen.

19 And so, the school district is responsible
20 for transporting that child to New Britain schools every
21 single day, because of course it's better off to keep
22 that child with their friends and with whatever social
23 network they still have, even though the school might
24 actually be a better school in the other neighborhood.

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1 So, New Britain pays for that bill, and if
2 New Britain is doing that 400 times, which they're not
3 but if they were, we see all of the problems with the
4 inequities of not tying funding to each child. So,
5 that's what we really need to do as a state, to tie the
6 funding to the child.

7 So, a child who is special ed, who has a
8 learning disability, who is homeless, right, all of that
9 money stacked goes with them, regardless of where they
10 go. That would really equalize how schools operate.

11 And you know, the last thing about why
12 people don't stay in Connecticut, I really think looking
13 at the urban cores. Our urban cores are often -- they're
14 largely abandoned by people with wealth in the state.
15 And if we did a survey here, how many of us live in urban
16 areas? You know, it's just something to reflect upon.

17 So, I think as a young person I left
18 Connecticut for a while and many of my friends at the
19 time did. And you know, Hartford, Bridgeport, these are
20 areas that we were told not to go near, you know, from
21 growing up in Durham. So, I really think we really need
22 to really look towards how do we create more compassion.

23 You know how do we as individuals do that,
24 how do we do that as a collective, and maybe looking to

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1 desegregate our towns and our neighborhoods with our
2 housing. Because the voluntary programs obviously don't
3 work. You know, Groton doesn't need a voluntary program,
4 they're not going to bring in Guilford, they're not going
5 to bring in you know, lower income Section 8 housing.
6 So, the voluntary programs just simply aren't going to
7 work.

8 And then, a comment on -- the last comment
9 on the economy. EPI, the federal -- they do a lot of
10 federal research, they are saying that in this year we're
11 going to have about one-third -- they're predicting
12 unemployment or under employment in the country, one-
13 third.

14 And especially the under employment which
15 is largely ignored, that's of course, people that want
16 full time jobs but can't simply get it. So, they're
17 working multiple jobs, and often don't include benefits,
18 and they're just trying to keep their heads above water.

19 So, how do we stop the exportation of
20 labor? I don't know. But that's you know, that's maybe
21 the ultimate questions because New Britain is the perfect
22 location for really asking that question and seeing the
23 effects of the exportation of labor and what that has
24 done to our local economy here in New Britain.

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1 So, but I applaud your efforts and I think
2 that it might be an uphill battle, but that's why we all
3 came out tonight to maybe give our two cents. So, thank
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you.

6 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you very much. Now,
7 everybody who signed up to speak has spoken. Is there
8 anybody else who would like to speak?

9 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Or, who has
10 questions or thoughts? John?

11 MR. JOHN SIMONE: I was a little late to
12 sign up.

13 DR. MCMILLEN: Please say your name?

14 MR. SIMONE: John Simone, I'm with the
15 Connecticut Main Street Center. One thing that we talked
16 about today in the plan, you know, a certain
17 collaboration came up, you know, partnerships. You
18 talked about the joint cabinets of --

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

20 MR. SIMONE: -- etc. The -- in the back,
21 starting around page 530 or so, and I don't pretend to
22 say I read all the way up to 530, but I skipped around.
23 You know, like a book, you read the end first and then go
24 back.

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1 You know, there's a list of initiatives,
2 and suggestions, and goals broken out about four or five
3 different ways. I'd love to see that list worked on with
4 sort of teams, where you're saying okay who are the
5 departments --

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

7 MR. SIMONE: -- that need to be part of
8 that? Both at the state level, but also what are the
9 private sector partners that maybe should be considered
10 part of the players of that as well.

11 And then, the hard part, which I know from
12 my own work and planning is, how to turn those into more
13 measurable goals, you know, to shoot for, and then be
14 able to look back and say, okay did we get the outcomes
15 we want and prioritize those.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

17 MR. SIMONE: I think it's like 65, and
18 maybe we're not going to get to all of them, especially
19 as we look at the state budget shortfalls and so how do
20 we have to sort of rethink things, is one thought.

21 The other thought is, from my perspective,
22 you know, downtown revitalization is what my job is all
23 about. And you know, to me that's all over this planet.
24 And the idea of you know, location, efficient mortgages,

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1 you know, working where the infrastructure already
2 exists. And so, from a perspective of how we can -- not
3 only look at the small businesses that might be able to
4 location in downtowns and where people could live
5 downtown, look at, you know, what are the tools, many of
6 which maybe are not monetary issues these days that we
7 don't have today that maybe we can put work towards
8 having.

9 And starting with, for example, assembling
10 land. You know, there's a lot of vacant property that
11 sits there, and I'm just beginning to do this research
12 myself and maybe you guys a ahead of the curve. There
13 are a lot -- I don't understand it quite frankly, there
14 are a lot of people who own properties, pay their taxes
15 on these vacant properties, and they're just sitting
16 there.

17 And in some cases it's not people waiting
18 to make the million dollars somewhere down the road.
19 It's -- I think they just don't want to get rid of it.
20 But it's a huge problem for what's around it, as we all
21 know.

22 And you know there are some creative
23 things that I've seen in other states more than anything
24 else where, you know, you have reverse taxation, for

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1 example, where a vacant property gets taxed at a higher
2 rate than one that's in use. There's a lot of things
3 that come into play that I think it's time for this state
4 to look at. And to me this is not -- this is way away
5 from the whole idea of eminent domain.

6 DR. MCMILLEN: Yeah.

7 MR. SIMONE: It's completely opposite of
8 that. It's like, what's best for most property owners.
9 I'd be curious to see how the new location -- wait a
10 minute, how do they -- land value tax that they're
11 working on in New London works. That could also play
12 that kind of role.

13 So, I -- and I'd be glad to pledge our
14 network to help you do some of the research. I don't
15 pretend we've got the answers yet. What are all those
16 tools where we can aggregate them so that we can make a
17 difference, and where there's money, great, but where
18 there isn't money, you know there's other ways to maybe
19 get to where we need to get. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you.

21 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you, John.

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yes.

23 MALE VOICE: Well, I'll put on another
24 hat.

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1 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

2 MALE VOICE: I'm a professor of
3 management, meaning that --

4 MR. WERBLOW: I'm sorry, I can't really
5 hear you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah, can you come
7 on up? Yeah, it's just --

8 MALE VOICE: I'm sorry, I'm used to
9 yakking from the sidelines. I object. I don't know what
10 I object to, but I object. No, I'm a professor of
11 management, I've been a management educator for almost 50
12 years, managerial leaders.

13 And I think that there's a population in
14 this state of men and women who manage every level of
15 enterprise, including public enterprise, but certainly
16 every level of enterprise. And what I think is, that
17 they have made a lot of decisions, particularly over the
18 last 20 years that have sent jobs anywhere in the world
19 where they can still get the job done and make a profit.

20 There's been a creeping thought that the
21 best way to do business it do conduct it anywhere where
22 you can get the best price.

23 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

24 MALE VOICE: And I understand that. But

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1 what that's done is essentially it's drained away the
2 very thing that keeps this state viable, which is the
3 job, the Connecticut job. The job that pays enough so
4 you can live as you said in your plan.

5 And I don't think these men and women make
6 these decisions out of any kind of malice, I don't think
7 that they said let's just take all the jobs out of New
8 Britain and leave you know, what's left here. But I do
9 think that what they've been trying to tell us is that
10 they still want to stay in business, and they don't think
11 they can get what they need done here in Connecticut for
12 that price.

13 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: That's --

14 MALE VOICE: So, when you take the cost of
15 a Connecticut job, that's what we need to focus on in the
16 future. I don't want my young people graduating here,
17 expecting that the only way that they can make a living
18 is to accept half of salary and benefits of what their
19 dads and moms have earned for the same job.

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

21 MALE VOICE: But that's what's happening
22 in these under-employed people. We've got to look at the
23 cost of the Connecticut job and then let's flip it over
24 and say why can't you get the most productive, the most

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1 profitable, the most ingenious, the most will go the
2 extra mile worker in the world right here in Connecticut.
3 So, we need to promote to those managers --

4 MR. WERBLOW: It's an unfair comparison
5 because china, you look at labor, you look at their
6 environmental policy, right, I mean, that's why the jobs
7 are overseas.

8 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: That is a big --
9 that is the dilemma. And it is -- you know, there's the
10 talented workforce that we've all been talking about, but
11 with -- you hit the nail on the head when the price of
12 labor and benefits or lack of benefits in the global
13 economy is 40, 50, 60 percent less in the traditional and
14 even the new manufacturing that we're doing, it is --
15 it's -- the commodity work is difficult, if not
16 impossible to keep in this state.

17 MR. WERBLOW: That's a battle we cant win.

18 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: So, we can't win
19 that one.

20 MR. ANTONICH: That's where we have to
21 draw the line.

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

23 MR. ANTONICH: I mean, we can't say we
24 can't. Alright, that's where we have to draw the line

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1 because this has been happening on a gradual basis. We
2 gave away industry by industry, right? I remember it was
3 the steel industry first, I always scratch my head about
4 that. And then I saw electronics go by the bye and I
5 couldn't buy a television made in the U.S. --

6 MALE VOICE: Tape rules.

7 MR. ANTONICH: And then my IBM PC had all
8 guts made in Taiwan. And we go through the automobiles
9 and everything else. And then, finally you know, we say
10 well, we're in charge of our -- the intellectual property
11 level, right, we're the smart ones. And then, all of a
12 sudden India raises its hand and says hey I can do your
13 programming. I can --

14 MALE VOICE: So do the Chinese.

15 MR. ANTONICH: -- I can do your call
16 center. And the last article I said -- I read said that
17 India wants to be our back office.

18 MALE VOICE: That's right.

19 MR. ANTONICH: They want to do all of our
20 work, they want to do our human resources, and our
21 payroll, and all the rest of it.

22 MALE VOICE: Until we run out of money.

23 MR. ANTONICH: Okay, and so and then at
24 the same time then we have China, you know, they're the

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1 big guy on the block. And what you have to do is you
2 have to look at something like Walmart. Okay, Walmart,
3 and this kind of blew me away, I don't know if you know
4 what Walmart's revenues are? Anybody?

5 MALE VOICE: About the 4th largest GNP in
6 the world, I think.

7 MR. ANTONICH: 405 billion dollars a year
8 -- a year. One company, Walmart. And three-hundred
9 billion of that is their cost of goods sold. In other
10 words, that's what they purchase. Where does most of
11 their goods come from?

12 MALE VOICE: China.

13 MR. ANTONICH: I saw 60 or 70 percent --

14 MALE VOICE: Viet Nam.

15 MR. ANTONICH: -- come from China. So,
16 here's one company and they are sending billions of
17 dollars to other countries that really reflect jobs.
18 Now, is that good for Walmart? Absolutely. Can you
19 fault Walmart for it? No. But now time has gone by and
20 we've seen the cumulative efforts of all of this, the
21 effects of it, the cumulative effects, and what we're
22 seeing is the results, which are jobs.

23 MALE VOICE: That's right.

24 MR. ANTONICH: Okay, American jobs.

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1 MALE VOICE: Connecticut jobs.

2 MR. ANTONICH: Alright? American jobs,
3 Connecticut jobs. What we're talking about here in
4 Connecticut is not unique.

5 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Oh, absolutely.

6 MR. ANTONICH: You can -- I bet you could
7 virtually go to every state in the nation and you will
8 hear the same thing. And interestingly, if you look at
9 the plans that they're putting together, they're all very
10 similar, right? Everybody's after high-tech jobs and --

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Green collar jobs
12 --

13 MR. ANTONICH: -- you know, we want to
14 have an angel tax credit, and everybody else is doing --
15 so, we'll all be doing the same thing and we'll be at the
16 same competitive level with other states anyway, so.

17 MR. CATTELAN: I just want to make a
18 comment on this, because this dovetails into my position.

19 MR. ANTONICH: And I just wanted to make a
20 last thing is, when you bring the subject up and you
21 explain all of that and what's happened, yes it has
22 happened. And it's benefitted some people and not
23 others. There's something I actually found and it has a
24 name to it, it's called "Miles' Law."

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1 MALE VOICE: Um-hum.

2 MR. ANTONICH: And Miles' Law states that,
3 "Where you stand depends on where you sit." Okay? And
4 so, if you're Walmart and you look at that situation you
5 say gangbusters. And if you're any other company -- I
6 saw yesterday -- I have stock in IBM. IBM -- 60 percent
7 of IBM's business comes from international business.

8 You know, I always thought they were
9 American apple pie, but 60 percent is global. Are they
10 taking advantage of what's in China and what's in India?
11 You bet they are. But here's the question, okay, is what
12 is good for any of those individual companies good for
13 America?

14 That's what we're faced here with, because
15 now when we look at America, we're looking at that under
16 employed person with the advanced degree. You know,
17 we're looking at the person who's close to foreclosure
18 that can't pay their bills or is heavily in debt. So, we
19 have a very mixed picture.

20 But if we look at the whole country, or in
21 this case if we look at the state, you know, we're
22 talking about things that really address all of the
23 citizens of the state or of the nation. And I think
24 that's where our priorities have to be so when we get

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1 down to that question about this, you know, uneven
2 competitive situation, we have to figure out how to
3 address it.

4 MALE VOICE: Um-hum.

5 MR. ANTONICH: I may not have a specific
6 answer to it, I might contribute a couple of
7 alternatives, but somehow or other we have to address the
8 issue and we have to come up with some way that puts
9 things back on an even keel.

10 MR. CATTELAN: Well, I'm strongly of the
11 opinion that it all goes back to the capability to
12 innovate.

13 MALE VOICE: I agree.

14 MR. CATTELAN: For example, all these
15 photovoltaic devices, nominal efficiency, 15 percent. If
16 we in Connecticut, which is the way we used to do things,
17 can come up with a photovoltaic cell that's got a 50
18 percent, 70 percent efficiency and we don't shovel it
19 offshore as fast as we can, which is normally what's
20 being done --

21 MALE VOICE: See, that's where the managers
22 come back in, because the managers will shovel it
23 offshore because they don't have the same conviction that
24 we're talking about.

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1 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Let him finish.

2 MR. CATTELAN: So, the question is,
3 Connecticut in our prior history -- which you know, any
4 economic development, like I say, it streaks the point
5 with me where I'm mad now because I don't want to hear, I
6 know all the great stuff. How come we're not doing any
7 new great stuff?

8 MALE VOICE: There you go.

9 MR. CATTELAN: But when we were doing that
10 we were prosperous as the day is long, and people bought
11 our stuff even though it was the high priced product
12 because they couldn't get it anywhere else.

13 MALE VOICE: Because it was the best you
14 could get.

15 MR. CATTELAN: Was the best you could get,
16 you couldn't get it anywhere else.

17 MALE VOICE: That's right.

18 MR. CATTELAN: I will tell you right now,
19 I'm an engineer but I'm not God's gift to the technology
20 world. But I look -- I've been an observer for too long
21 and I actually -- that's why I came here. You know, my
22 wife wanted me to come home and I love my wife dearly but
23 I decided to come here because I said gee, somewhere we
24 got to start reversing this. We all know it, that's why

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1 we're here.

2 MALE VOICE: That's right.

3 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

4 MR. CATTELAN: And what I see is example,
5 you look at the fuel efficiency of aircraft. Pratt &
6 Whitney, I don't know if it was them or GE, who got it
7 first. It probably was a government R & D program at
8 fantastic cost. The gentleman was saying the magnitude
9 of money that goes into defense technology, it's
10 phenomenal.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yes.

12 MR. CATTELAN: It's actually poisoned the
13 well. I can tell you first hand reports from clients of
14 mine years ago that are gone, were manufacturers in this
15 state, they hated the defense contractors with a passion.

16 I won't name names, but I mean these were
17 owners, -- you partners, owners of Connecticut companies
18 that were manufacturing, they would have to hire young
19 people, literally kid working at a gas station, bring him
20 on board, train him how to be a machinist, get him
21 qualified.

22 And then poof, they would get sucked off
23 by the defense contractors. They'd get paid 40, 50
24 percent more money and do 20 percent of the work. Why?

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1 Because the business model favored that. And I'm just
2 being honest --

3 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

4 MR. CATTELAN: -- please don't hold me to
5 exact statistics here. But what I guess where I'm going
6 is the ability to, you know, to innovate and produce
7 innovations, so with the aircraft example. The most
8 revolutionary thing that has happened to improve aircraft
9 fuel efficiency is slowing the ducted fans down.

10 In the old days we had propellers, then we
11 went to jet engines that produced thrust. Very
12 inefficient but fuel was cheap, who cared, you know jet
13 fuel was 10 cents a gallon, just let it blow. Then, the
14 engines changed to using the jet engine to drive a shaft
15 and put an external fan on it.

16 Then we said, gee, if we could slow that
17 fan down -- so, the ooh, ah, wonderful contraption that I
18 could only imagine what got paid by the government to
19 develop it, was the same gear box that's in Henry Ford's
20 Model T. You know, an aircraft version of that was
21 created to slow the fan down. There is way more that can
22 be done to improve aircraft fuel efficiency.

23 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Absolutely.

24 MR. CATTELAN: If we can do that and keep

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1 that internal to the state now we got something.

2 MR. ANTONICH: That's the question, how do
3 you keep it?

4 MR. CATTELAN: Well, the British, in the
5 early industrial revolution, if you exported textile
6 technology it was capital punishment.

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay, now there
8 you go.

9 MR. CATTELAN: Samuel Slater gave birth to
10 the textile industry in this country. He brought the
11 whole mill design in his head and he redrew it. He would
12 have been punished by death if he went back.

13 MR. ANTONICH: But now here's one thing
14 that crops up. Any time that this discussion comes up on
15 a national level, what's the first word that somebody
16 brings up when they start hearing about, you know, doing
17 something to help America and you know, issue those
18 controls. What's the word? Protection.

19 MALE VOICE: Protectionism, yeah.

20 MR. ANTONICH: Oh, my God, oh my God, oh
21 that would mean protectionism. You can't have
22 protectionism.

23 MR. CATTELAN: So, the clunkers program --

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Cash for clunkers.

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1 MR. CATTELAN: Cash for clunkers is -- 50
2 percent of the cars sold were Japanese. Are you aware in
3 Japan that they're doing the same program, only one
4 difference.

5 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: 100 percent --

6 MR. CATTELAN: Yes --

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- have to be
8 manufactured --

9 MR. CATTELAN: -- yes.

10 MR. ANTONICH: Protectionism.

11 MR. CATTELAN: I don't know, it seems like
12 it doesn't work both ways here.

13 MALE VOICE: But I do think, and I think
14 this is great dynamism, and I thought you used the word
15 dynamic a lot in the plan, which I liked very much. But
16 I do think that we have the biggest job on our hands, is
17 to sell -- to sell the value of the Connecticut worker.
18 The worker --

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

20 MALE VOICE: -- because you know, Sikorsky
21 and all these other people initially they weren't
22 executives.

23 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

24 MALE VOICE: They were people who worked

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1 close to the problem, whether it's close to a customer or
2 something, and they had an "ah-ha" in their head, and
3 then they put it together and they started to build
4 something like Frederick Stanley did, you know built this
5 town.

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Definitely.

7 MALE VOICE: So, the point is that if we
8 can sell the fact that you -- yes, you can get it done
9 cheaper in China, but there's something about the
10 Connecticut worker. Now, I know there is.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: There is. And we
12 have lots of them out there.

13 MALE VOICE: And it may cost 100 grand
14 with benefits to have John Doe working for you -- and of
15 course, John Doe, and this is the preaching I do to my
16 students, he's going to have to -- or she's going to have
17 to earn that 100,000 dollar with two or three hundred
18 thousand dollars worth of profit, but my kids are up for
19 it.

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

21 MALE VOICE: They want it. But they also
22 don't trust that the Connecticut managers who run, even
23 the mid size if not the large companies, will stick with
24 them, invest in them so they can get into that job and

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1 let them feel part of that business before that job goes
2 whisked off overseas. And this is the real -- this is
3 the fright that our kids are facing now. Do they trust
4 the Connecticut manager at Aetna, or Travelers, or any of
5 these others? The answer is no.

6 MR. CATTELAN: They're moving out of state
7 is what they're doing, it breaks my heart.

8 MALE VOICE: Out of state, out of country,
9 and it's happening faster all the time. My goodness, a
10 tape recorder, I haven't seen one of those in years.
11 Sorry, I'll get off my soap box.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Can you come on
13 down, Linda?

14 DR. MCMILLEN: While she's coming down I
15 just want to point out that what we have in Connecticut
16 is the most productive workforce in the world. If you
17 take the gross state product per capita, it's the highest
18 in the country. And if it's the highest in the United
19 States it's the highest in the world.

20 So, what we have to offer is not only
21 Yankee ingenuity, but have hard working people, hard
22 working smart people. And that shows up in the data, GSP
23 per capita is the highest. So, that's something that we
24 need to build on.

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1 MR. ANTONICH: Is there some information
2 about that broken down? Because there's one aspect to
3 that kind of statement which I'm always leery of and that
4 like saying Connecticut is the wealthiest state. You
5 know, it's a figure -- but how you know, how could we
6 have the poorest cities at the same time that we're the
7 wealthiest state.

8 DR. MCMILLEN: Well because --

9 MR. ANTONICH: You have to break it down.

10 DR. MCMILLEN: Well, as a state --

11 MR. ANTONICH: And so, if you say
12 productive, in what areas?

13 DR. MCMILLEN: Gross state product, which
14 is gross domestic product in the state, that's the value
15 added --

16 MR. ANTONICH: Right.

17 DR. MCMILLEN: -- in the state of
18 Connecticut by all industries --

19 MR. CATTELAN: Right.

20 DR. MCMILLEN: -- if you divide that by
21 every man, woman, and child --

22 MR. CATTELAN: Right.

23 DR. MCMILLEN: -- that number is the
24 largest number in the United States.

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1 MR. ANTONICH: As is the wealthiest state,
2 if you take the total wealth and you divide it -- but
3 everybody in the state is not wealthy.

4 DR. MCMILLEN: Correct.

5 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: No, no.

6 MR. ANTONICH: So, my point is in terms of
7 productivity there's some aspects of the economy --

8 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: More productive.

9 MR. ANTONICH: -- that are productive and
10 others less. And I'm just asking if there's anything
11 that lays that out.

12 DR. MCMILLEN: Yeah. Part of this 500
13 pages is to actually explain that. The income
14 disparities, the achievement gap. I mean, I go into
15 great detail to illustrate that --

16 MR. ANTONICH: No, I'm talking
17 specifically about productivity, is that in there? I
18 mean, are there some breakdown of --

19 DR. MCMILLEN: Yes.

20 MR. ANTONICH: Alright, I'll find it.
21 Good.

22 MR. CATTELAN: One other concern I have
23 statistically in there is, I've been formulating an
24 opinion that too much of our economy right now is the

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1 pensioners paying for all the services. How much does
2 that represent, because when they all go you know the old
3 defying benefit pensions from all of our old
4 manufacturing companies, when that population passes on
5 that's going to shut down.

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Well, that you
7 know -- I think picking up on a point that I believe Jack
8 raised which is, you know, kind of that -- and you raised
9 also, Joseph, is just how the demographics and how the
10 population has changed, you know.

11 Your point about looking back and we have
12 a proud history, well look at the demographics of that
13 proud history and the life expectancy of people at that
14 time, defined benefit plans worked, you know.

15 You could -- you know, in the 50's, 60's,
16 and 70's, you went to work for a company, you went to
17 work for government, you taught school, you have a
18 defined benefit plan and the actuarial tables you know,
19 what you put in in social security, what you put in was
20 more than you took out and it worked.

21 MALE VOICE: We refuse to die now.

22 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right, nobody --
23 right. So --

24 MALE VOICE: I'm 66 and I'm not dying.

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1 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And that's a real
2 -- that is -- and that's a national issue. You know, as
3 we live longer and we don't -- and nobody retires at 55,
4 then how do we balance that and account for that? That's
5 a real issue that we have to grapple with also. Linda?

6 MS. LINDA KOBALARZ: Thank you. Linda
7 Kobalarz, and I'm a career and workforce competitiveness
8 consultant. Spend a lot of time in education at middle
9 school, high school, and post secondary, and I'd like to
10 speak to a few of the points that some of the speakers
11 before me have raised.

12 First, is that I'm absolutely passionate
13 about what I'll call career development in our schools.
14 I think that it needs to begin no later than middle
15 school. We must -- we must expose our young people to
16 all -- to all of the kinds of occupations that are
17 available to them to spark their creativity and to keep
18 them engaged.

19 Most of our kids, unfortunately, they may
20 be sitting in school, but I'll tell you they're mentally
21 checked out. And I don't care whether you're in Avon
22 where I grew up, or if you're in Chicago public schools,
23 where I've worked as a consultant for seven years, it's
24 the same story.

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1 We look at some interesting research now
2 on brain based learning theory, and one of the things
3 that come through so clearly is that when young people
4 learn, when the brain can make connections to the world
5 around it, we get into long-term memory and retention
6 rather than short-term.

7 Short-term comes from rote. And
8 unfortunately a lot of schools and a lot of teachers are
9 teaching to a test now. And so, they're using rote
10 techniques and not having time to let kids be creative,
11 to explore, to imagine, and to learn contextually.

12 So, as we look at the education reform in
13 Connecticut, I hope that we keep that notion front and
14 center of how young people really do learn and really do
15 retain. I teach at a college, at a university where most
16 of the students -- highly, highly diverse, in any
17 classroom I probably have native speakers from 12
18 different countries.

19 And they are -- they are challenged by
20 lots of barriers, lots of educational barriers. But one
21 of the things that I have learned in teaching these young
22 people is that when you spark their imagination, when you
23 let them run with it, when you let them take control of
24 their own learning, when you let them create the meaning

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1 from the subject area, they learn, they become creative,
2 and they are the innovators that we need.

3 I worked with Governor Rell's office to
4 develop the proclamation for career development month,
5 which was in November. And the heart and soul of that
6 proclamation was innovation, and how Connecticut has
7 always been a leader in innovation. And so it is that I
8 really urge us to look carefully at how we're promoting
9 education and the kinds of things that we're doing.

10 And just one final thought, which scares
11 me tremendously, but it's reality. We look at the bell
12 curve for intelligence, for I.Q. In China there are more
13 people who are in the top 10 percent on the bell curve
14 for intelligence than there are in this entire country.
15 So, we can't afford to lose one child. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you. Diane,
17 okay? Don't lose your thought, Joseph, we'll get to you.

18 MS. DIANE RANDALL: It's a lively bunch.

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: It is, it's good.

20 MS. RANDALL: Good evening Commissioner
21 McDonald and Dr. McMillan. My name is Diane Randall, I'm
22 the Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities.
23 And I'm going to change topics a little bit and talk
24 about housing.

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1 The Partnership for Strong Communities
2 works on affordable housing and solutions to homelessness
3 and the creation of strong communities. And so, some of
4 the remarks that I've been able to hear since I've come
5 in clearly relate in relation to the quality of life.

6 And one of the things we do know about
7 Connecticut is people are attracted to come here and to
8 stay here, not only because they have jobs, which is
9 obviously first and foremost critical, but that they like
10 the quality of life in this state. And so, I think a lot
11 of what we want to talk about is the parts of the plan
12 that speak to that.

13 And specifically there are some very key
14 elements that talk about quality of life in relation to
15 housing that we're very pleased with. This has been a
16 prodigious effort and kudos to you, Stan, for all the
17 hard work that you've done to put into it.

18 I want to say a remark, first of all,
19 about that goes I think to the heart of just how we talk
20 about Connecticut. I've lived here for over 20 years,
21 I'm not a native like probably some of the people here.
22 But one of the remarks that I hear sometimes is that
23 people tend to be negative about the state.

24 And I think the question about how we talk

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1 about our state and the marketing, which is -- which is a
2 comment in the plan or a remark in the plan, I think is a
3 really important one. And we believe strongly that we
4 ought to think about selling our state as much as we can
5 and making it clear that this is a great place to live.

6 I think that the aspect of the -- I'm not
7 going to read my whole testimony, I have written comments
8 to submit. But the part that we want to speak to are the
9 issues that really talk about the divide that we have in
10 housing affordability and assuring that people can afford
11 to live here.

12 Much of the work that we've done at the
13 Partnership for Strong Communities has been trying to
14 look at the loss of the younger population, moving out of
15 the state, and how the lack of affordable housing has an
16 impact on that. And I think the plan recognizes that and
17 looks at opportunities.

18 As we look at trends of what are happening
19 across the country in terms of how the economy is
20 effecting people and what kind of housing is being
21 produced, we see that increasingly home builders are
22 seeing a new demand for smaller homes, for more compact
23 living , for energy efficiency. For housing that is
24 created in conjunction with transit, that is created in

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1 walkable communities.

2 And we think that this plan speaks to
3 that. Specifically a lot of the work that our
4 organization has done around home Connecticut speaks to
5 that, and we appreciate the fact that that is included in
6 the plan. And see that as a very thoughtful way to think
7 about development and land use in the state of
8 Connecticut going forward.

9 We also are pleased that while people
10 don't necessarily think of addressing homelessness as an
11 economic development activity, in fact, not addressing it
12 can be a drag on the economy.

13 And so, we're -- we are grateful that
14 there's an understanding that the creation of permanent
15 supportive housing in addressing a chronic homeless
16 population and availability of housing that's affordable
17 to people who are in the workforce but at a very low
18 level, their ability to sustain and have stability can be
19 enhanced by the availability of affordable housing.

20 And specifically it's important to note
21 that the plan recognizes the need to preserve our
22 existing affordable housing stock that has been
23 government assisted. This is -- we see this as an
24 infrastructure investment just as we have invested in

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1 infrastructure in roads, in bridges, in schools, and
2 other public institutions.

3 There has been a significant amount of
4 government assisted housing that needs to be maintained.
5 And obviously, you know, we've talked a lot about that
6 investment and maintaining that housing is a jobs
7 producer. Building housing produces jobs, it creates
8 economic churn.

9 The simple fact is that -- well, it's not
10 so simple, but the -- one of the causes of our economic
11 recession right now has been some real problems with our
12 housing sector. And so, being able to continue to create
13 housing, and see the creation of housing, and the
14 preservation of housing, and rehabilitation as a jobs
15 opportunity is critically important.

16 I would say that the related policy areas
17 that we're also interested in is how transit develops.
18 And we've looked at how other states and other
19 communities have really paid attention to the development
20 of transit. It's gratifying to know that we are going to
21 see some action tomorrow on the New Haven to Springfield
22 rail line, and an opportunity to continue to push that
23 initiative as a real growth effort.

24 Clearly the conversation that I've heard

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1 about you know, the global economy, you know, it's
2 difficult for Connecticut to compete without thinking
3 about ourselves as a region and without thinking of New
4 England, without thinking of how we look at Connecticut
5 as part of a greater New England or northeast region.
6 So, the rail lines and the transit lines that we look at
7 are very important to that.

8 And then thinking about how development
9 happens along those lines, and that development isn't
10 only about the creation of industry along those lines,
11 but it is a creation of housing, and housing that people
12 can afford, and housing that people who need public
13 transit will live in as well.

14 I think the other part that we want to
15 just mention is the consolidation of the concept of a
16 responsible growth -- consolidating administered
17 discretion and municipal grant programs like Responsible
18 Growth of the 21st Century Fund and establishing a
19 competitive process for towns to apply to that as a
20 recommendation we like very much.

21 Clearly, the ground-fill remediation
22 program is another issue that's important to address the
23 quality of life and opportunity. And one of the models
24 that we've been in conversation with you about before is

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1 an idea of having an executive branch responsible growth
2 cabinet, where there is someone who can coordinate some
3 of the efforts that come both out of our -- out of DECD,
4 DEP, DOT, and corollary agencies.

5 And I'll stop there and give my written
6 testimony, and thank you again for your hard work in
7 this. It's been a long process and it's quite an effort.
8 We have, obviously, also commented on the state's long
9 range housing plan --

10 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yes.

11 MS. RANDALL: -- and the HUD plan, and
12 have made similar remarks. And so, one of things I'm
13 going to commend you, Commissioner, on is the effort to
14 try to look at the consistency of policy across these
15 planning functions and across agencies as well, which is
16 critically important. And has been a long needed effort
17 in Connecticut. So, thank you for that.

18 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thank you. Okay,
19 Joseph?

20 MR. CATTELAN: One of the things that is
21 outstanding on career development, I have a hobby of
22 reading about the industrialists and the inventors so I'm
23 kind of familiar with many of them. Virtually all of
24 them would never have fit into conventional education.

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1 Thomas Edison, when he would lecture,
2 would proclaim, They said -- they told my mother I was
3 addled, which I guess was a term for mentally defective.

4 And if Edison was in school today instead
5 of being in a career development program that would
6 launch the likes of General Electric, one of our
7 companies, instead of launching it he would have been put
8 on Ritalin and probably would have ended up as some kind
9 of a patent examiner or something and we'd still be using
10 gas lights. So, the career development thing I think is
11 tremendously consequential.

12 MS. ELIZABETH STOCKER: Hi.

13 DR. MCMILLEN: Hi.

14 MS. STOCKER: Elizabeth Stocker, I'm
15 Director of Economic and Community Development for the
16 town of Newtown. And I haven't heard any other
17 municipalities this evening, so I felt compelled to come
18 down and speak.

19 And we're a partner with you in terms of
20 the strategic plan. And -- but the observation that I
21 have is there's a lot to bite off, and I think that there
22 needs to be smaller elements that are attainable and
23 perhaps benchmarks, maybe cut down a little bit.

24 You mentioned in the beginning that the

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1 economy was different when we started out with this plan,
2 and I did attend prior meetings as well. And I think
3 that what we need to do going forward is for the state to
4 allow the municipalities to work with you because we are
5 your partner in the state, we want to move forward.

6 We have direct contact with the businesses
7 that are in our communities and tend to know what their
8 specific issues are and where their problems lie. And
9 so, I just wanted to be sure to encourage you to include
10 us, ask us, you know to be involved. And I want to thank
11 you for having us here tonight.

12 DR. MCMILLEN: Could you just spell your
13 last name so I can mark it down?

14 MS. STOCKER: S-T-O-C-K-E-R.

15 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And I want to pick
17 up on a point that Elizabeth just made which was -- and I
18 think it was a point that someone made and it may have
19 been you again, Jack, about the urgency.

20 And you know, looking back when we started
21 this process, you know, I mention in my -- when I gave
22 the overview of the plan, the public act, and where the
23 economy was in May of 2007, we -- what Elizabeth
24 mentioned, we publicly kicked off the plan with a series

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1 of ten public hearings around the state.

2 And my sense is that there was some
3 urgency then but not the urgency that we're hearing
4 tonight, that we heard when we were in Norwalk in early
5 December, that we've been hearing from the civic, and
6 business, and community organizations that we're meeting
7 with.

8 And to your point, Elizabeth, and to what
9 some others have said about prioritizing and putting --
10 you know, moving things forward, that's exactly why we
11 came back out, is to hear from you. And to -- you know,
12 we recognize when we released it that the 66 -- I mean,
13 many of the initiatives just by their nature are long-
14 range.

15 Yes, as Diane just mentioned, there's
16 going to be movement tomorrow on the spring -- the New
17 Haven to Springfield line with the state allocating 26
18 million dollars to the project. But that's got a
19 construction horizon that has different phases, it's
20 going to take time.

21 The job creation, the urban centers, the
22 town centers, you know, those are the things we can do
23 right now. The innovation ideas, and that's why we came
24 back out to get the prior -- to hear from you where the

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1 priorities should be. And actually from my standpoint
2 what I am hearing is the urgency. You know, people are
3 not just -- you guys all aren't here just to come out --
4 you know, you could be watching a football game, right?
5 And it's -- or you could be home with your wife.

6 And it's really -- everybody recognizes, I
7 think the urgency. And we have to seize the moment.
8 John?

9 MR. SIMONE: I really appreciate your
10 point on the urgency. While things like transit are
11 obviously a lot longer term prospects, I mean I almost
12 feel like we have to double the urgency on that. And
13 I'll just give you an example. There was an major
14 transit conference in Boston this fall called, rail-
15 volution.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

17 MR. SIMONE: There was like 900 people
18 there from -- the bigwigs from everywhere. And so, I
19 went as an ignoramus going to learn, there were five
20 people from Connecticut out of 900 people. And I'm
21 going, there's no call to action or urgency if there's
22 only that few people even coming to this conference.
23 That's one example of that.

24 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Point well taken.

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1 MR. CATTELAN: One major concern, just
2 based on the recent procurement of these 300 railcars
3 from Kawasaki, and also when Amtrak uglified our
4 shoreline by putting the catenarys up when they could
5 have used other technologies, I'm very bitter about it, I
6 can't help it.

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: I don't blame you.

8 MR. CATTELAN: But the point is that I
9 hope that the intent is not to spend the 26 -- or 260
10 million?

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: 26.

12 MR. CATTELAN: 26, that's not a lot, okay,
13 but 26 million, I hope it's not to buy all imported goods
14 so we can shovel more cash --

15 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: No, this funding
16 is to double track the actual line. So, it's to put
17 double tracking in.

18 MR. CATTELAN: But going back to the
19 Connecticut Yankee ingenuity --

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

21 MR. CATTELAN: -- I, you know, I do use
22 the rail lines. If I call on clients in New York or
23 Boston I take the train. Get on in Old Saybrook and I
24 get there. And it appalls me that the technology of

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1 rail, even global, hasn't really advanced.

2 There's an example of where some Yankees
3 ingenuity could drastically transform it. And when we
4 study how much traffic travels through Connecticut, we
5 could much more efficiently transport all that traffic,
6 probably for profit, it's a whole different theme on
7 putting up toll booths.

8 It's like, no, no, you're not driving your
9 truck on the highway through my state. No, you're going
10 to platform on this vehicle and I'll tell you what, I'll
11 do it for less than your fuel costs and still make money.

12 And you know, we've seen the commercials
13 where the long distance cross country rail carriers are
14 now advertising --

15 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Oh, yes.

16 MR. CATTELAN: -- what is it, 400 tons on
17 a gallon of diesel?

18 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

19 MR. CATTELAN: You know, for whatever --
20 for 100 miles, whatever the ratio is. Well, why aren't
21 we thinking along those lines and thinking about
22 fabricating it. We have a shipyard in Groton that is
23 purely a defense contractor, different world, but we are
24 welding seven inch thick steel over there. We sure as

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1 heck can build railroad cars.

2 We have a jet engine factory, we can sure
3 as heck build -- as a matter of fact Pratt & Whitney
4 actually did build a jet engine locomotive back in the
5 60's, I think, (indiscernible) was the project. We don't
6 think that far out of the box.

7 MS. STOCKER: I just want to follow up on
8 -- can you hear me okay down there?

9 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Can you come down
10 a little closer?

11 MS. STOCKER: Yeah, sure.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Thanks.

13 MS. STOCKER: I just read the article that
14 was written in the real estate journal about the state of
15 Rhode Island's strategic plan. And this kind of goes
16 along with what I mentioned before about municipalities
17 being partnered with the state. And their plan had to do
18 with lining the real estate and infrastructure that's
19 available within those communities together with the
20 overall plan for the state.

21 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-num.

22 MS. STOCKER: And I think that was a real
23 vital thing to making it actually happen and being
24 successful. And so, I just wanted to mention --

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1 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

2 MS. STOCKER: -- that because --

3 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Great.

4 MS. STOCKER: -- I thought that that was
5 very important in terms of you know, our educational
6 clusters --

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

8 MS. STOCKER: -- and you know, where we
9 are, what our infrastructure is, but how we fit in and
10 how our infrastructure works together and so forth.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Diane?

12 MS. RANDALL: You know, what I wanted to
13 talk about is, you know there's a -- I think that's
14 attractive too. I mean, when you think about what young
15 people want and what they're attracted to, it's to be in
16 a walkable communities where there's some -- I mean,
17 they're interested in activity, and life, and portability
18 of housing, and obviously jobs.

19 But the kind of community that is created
20 is critically important. And I think -- when I think of
21 innovation I think of it as being often very small scale.
22 And I think of you know, the kind of innovation that
23 happens in places where you know, there's a lot of you
24 know -- artist housing has been something we've pursued.

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1 But also like design ideas that are
2 industrial design or -- I mean, you know those kind of
3 very small, cultivating that kind of creative class, you
4 know, is something that I think we could do much more of.
5 And you know, I referred to it about marketing, but it's
6 more than marketing, right, it's also how we -- you know
7 what opportunities are available and how the small -- I
8 mean, we've often taken on these big giant ideas. And
9 sometimes it's more the small, ground up, bubbling up out
10 of a community, even.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah, it's how we
12 champion and move it forward, and it is a lot of smaller,
13 you know, smaller that all fit together.

14 MR. FEARON: I think if we look at the --
15 dig into the history of almost every small town in
16 Connecticut, including New Hartford where I live, what I
17 love to do is go to these museums in these towns. Now,
18 you're talking.

19 In other words, the reason we have a
20 hundred and sixty some towns in this state and where
21 people have a great deal of heritage and pride is that
22 once something got started there and things moved around.
23 Granted, water, power, etc. had something to do with it.

24 But I think, why not, rather than

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1 completely lament the fact that our towns are so
2 independent and don't quite want to regionalize in some
3 ways, yes that may be true. On the other hand, to the
4 point made a moment ago, the people closest to those you
5 know, governing at the closest they know what's going on.

6 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

7 MR. FEARON: And they know those managers
8 I'm talking about, they know them personally. And so, I
9 think we do have an advantage in Connecticut being a
10 state of 169 small towns. A couple of big cities with
11 intractable problems, but we're trying. But we can make
12 things happen in the small towns, including housing.

13 Bring back -- and this is where my
14 students prefer, you know, some like want to live in
15 downtown Hartford and go to a bar and so forth. But a
16 lot of them want to start families, they want what their
17 grandparents had.

18 And if we can tell them yes, we can bring
19 back the spirit that created these towns 250 years ago,
20 it's still in us, it's still in our DNA, it hasn't all
21 gone away. I think we can be competitive again. So, I
22 love that notion of thinking small.

23 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: But I -- and I
24 think picking up on that point and when we look back on

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1 the industrialization, you know, not just in this state,
2 but you know in this country, if you look at UTC, and
3 Pratt & Whitney and just you know, the acreage devoted to
4 parking. You go to an old Bethlehem Steel plant and just
5 miles, because that's what it was in the 50's and --

6 MR. FEARON: That's what it was.

7 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- 60's, and it
8 was --

9 MR. FEARON: And you'll never see that
10 again.

11 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- and we won't
12 see that again. It's going to be the innovative
13 manufacturing and the innovative technology, and it's
14 going to be on the smaller scales.

15 MR. FEARON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And it may be
17 several different companies housed together, but -- and
18 we need to make sure to you know, that government
19 facilitates that but allows the private sector to create
20 the jobs.

21 MR. ANTONICH: One other point before when
22 I was going on about the higher level competitive aspect
23 and describing the situation where we decided to just
24 import a lot of goods and effect that it's had, if you

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1 look back in talking about museums, right down in New
2 Britain I think at 185 Main Street, there's a museum in
3 there.

4 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: It's fabulous.

5 MR. ANTONICH: And if you go in you'll see
6 the old businesses that used to manufacture. And when I
7 went through there once I remember seeing they were big
8 exporters. And this is something that sort of caught me
9 off that point because at that point in time I guess, the
10 1800's, they were exporting all over the world.

11 So, the point I want to make is that
12 there's one aspect to say we have to address that
13 situation and it was caused because we had an imbalance
14 in trade and too many imports came in. But the flip side
15 of that is, figuring out how to export more.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Right.

17 MR. ANTONICH: Because it's more of
18 achieving the balance, and we've let it get out of whack.

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Out of whack.

20 MR. ANTONICH: And now we have to bring it
21 back, and we can do that by one way or another
22 restricting imports or figuring out how to develop --

23 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Grow our exports.

24 MR. ANTONICH: -- things, and increase

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1 exports.

2 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Okay.

3 MR. SIMONE: One thing that we've talked
4 around a bit, and I sort of want to bring it back in a
5 different way. And it's evidenced in this room, you know
6 the importance of the younger generation, the younger
7 adults, students, you know, they're not at the table, we
8 haven't figured out ways to get to bring them to the
9 table.

10 And I think probably the best way we can
11 do that is through our colleges and universities, where
12 there's a lot -- throughout the country there's a growing
13 partnership happening on so many different levels,
14 whether it be around competitiveness or around downtown
15 revitalization, there are a whole host of things.

16 And we've got a huge asset -- there's
17 another asset the state has, I wouldn't call it untapped,
18 but we can tap it a lot more I think.

19 MR. FEARON: Oh, I agree. We're kind of
20 lonely, really. I mean, we're working almost in a vacuum
21 in these schools, these four campuses. And part of it is
22 because we professors stick our noses in our books and we
23 keep them there. I don't see one university system
24 administrator I this room.

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1 Now, I walked by -- I assumed our Dean of
2 the business school was coming, so I kind of waived
3 across the parking lot. Not to pick on the guy, but the
4 fact is that this is about our future.

5 MALE VOICE: He's got two more chances.

6 MR. FEARON: And I'm going to urge him to
7 come to -- tomorrow morning I'm going to the economic
8 summit --

9 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

10 MR. FEARON: -- instead of the dean I just
11 publicly rebuked. He is paying for me to go to the
12 summit. But I read about it and I said I wanted to go.

13 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

14 MALE VOICE: And it was like, you want to
15 go, we're on break. Yeah, I want to go. I want to go,
16 because I'm going to be sitting down with 75 young people
17 with bright eyes in two weeks in this same building --

18 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: And you want to be
19 able to --

20

21 MR. FEARON: -- the one you're talking
22 about. Chinese, you name the background, lots of
23 wonderful kids from all backgrounds, and they are
24 working. They are working they way -- if they can get

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1 jobs and keep them, they're paying their way through
2 school, taking full loads -- crushing loads.

3 We don't spare the rod, we can't it's
4 irresponsible for their future to make it easy on them.
5 And they really, really want to know that this university
6 system, and the community college system, and private
7 colleges, that we're all in this together.

8 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: It's working for
9 them.

10 MR. FEARON: So, I can be -- I could look
11 at them with somewhat a clear conscious when I see them
12 in two weeks and say, yeah, I'm trying my best as an
13 individual and as a representative of this system and of
14 your futures to figure out what the hell's going on and
15 try to get something going.

16 But if anyone needs an invitation to be
17 more collaborative of the university system, I'm Dave
18 Fearon, give me call. I'll call David Carter --

19 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Yeah.

20 MR. FEARON: -- our State Chancellor, or
21 all kinds of other people, and say the state of
22 Connecticut needs us to open our doors and be more
23 involved.

24 MR. ARIEL MARTINEZ: Quick comment. I

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1 think this is a great time to take advantage of a
2 negative and turn it into a positive. Since the economy
3 is the way it is you're going to have a lot more students
4 whether it be high school, and like you said the
5 community college enrollment is up, state college
6 university enrollment is up.

7 Younger people aren't going to be so apt
8 to move out of the state due to the economic situation.
9 So, what you have to do now is focus on revitalizing the
10 cities to maybe make them more attractive for people to
11 stay in the long run.

12 I think Connecticut has been a state that
13 has really kind of focused on the older generation and
14 it's gotten away with that because the way things have
15 been and they've been generating money and innovation and
16 things like that.

17 But now you're seeing those baby boomers
18 sort of retire, and there's a huge gap between the
19 college graduates, young professional, and the baby
20 boomers, and Connecticut's not filling that gap. Because
21 of the fact that really there's no attraction for young
22 people to stay here.

23 I mean, I myself, I grew up in
24 Connecticut, went to school in Boston, and then left for

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1 about eight years and now I've just come back. Really
2 kind of because of that reason. There was no incentive
3 really for me to stay here. But I love living here, I
4 think it has a lot to offer. We have beaches, we have
5 great cities, we have everything a young person would
6 want.

7 We have a great quality of life, it's just
8 that, like you said the marketability, we have to market
9 that. We have to improve our cities, integrate it more
10 with the public housing and new developments, walkable
11 areas, attractions, restaurants, night life, etc.

12 And that's going to attract more people
13 and keep people her, and I think that's going to help the
14 economy tremendously.

15 DR. MCMILLEN: Could you just say your
16 name, sir?

17 MR. ANTONICH: I would agree with all
18 those things --

19 MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, my --

20 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Hold on Jack, hold
21 on Jack.

22 MS. MARTINEZ: My name is Ariel Martinez.
23 It's A-R-I-E-L, last name Martinez.

24 MR. ANTONICH: I would agree with all of

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1 those things. I still believe that there's one big
2 magnet overall, young people, whatever, jobs. Okay?
3 They go where the jobs are, where the money is. And
4 then, everything follows.

5 In fact, you could make a case for
6 everything that we talk about here, if we had a vibrant
7 economy, if we were growing, if we were adding jobs, and
8 bringing people in and employing them then everything
9 else would follow. So, I guess my only point is that's
10 what you need to focus on.

11 MS. MARTINEZ: But what about in the bad
12 times? In the good times I see your point. Well, I --
13 I'm saying now in the bad times I see your point, because
14 wherever there's a job available everybody's moving
15 there.

16 But in the good times, and obviously we're
17 hopefully going to make it out of this recession, you
18 know we need to maintain those people here. We need to
19 -- because if I could get a job here versus somewhere
20 else where maybe there's more attractiveness for me as
21 young professional, I'm probably going to have to go
22 there versus staying in Connecticut.

23 MR. ANTONICH: That's my point, but I
24 agree, yeah.

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1 MR. CATTELAN: All thoughts, you know, I
2 think are tremendous and especially the professor here
3 saying about the student body. I lectured here in the
4 school of construction management for Professor Hickey --
5 and I lectured his group. And I've got to say I see,
6 just like you described, motivated, hungry students.

7 These are adults that are going here --
8 you know, they're young adults typically, but all ages,
9 I've seen people that aren't young adults. They're
10 obviously going here with great purpose to get educated
11 to have skills that can let them have a job.

12 And I think that the traditional old model
13 of -- one of my clients years ago was W.E. Bassett
14 Company, which is gone. You know Trim Brand nail
15 clippers?

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Um-hum.

17 MR. CATTELAN: Well, they used to be made
18 in Derby. What's left of them, yeah, they're around,
19 they import from Korea. But we -- I used to do
20 engineering for the factory, they used to make them here.

21 But the manufacturing manager there would
22 say that Derby and Ansonia, you know, when he was a young
23 guy and he's probably 90 right now, if he's still around
24 -- hopefully is, he's a nice guy. But he said when he

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1 was a young man you can walk to no more than six
2 establishments within those two towns in the valley, as
3 he called it, and you could get yourself a job.

4 It would be adequate to sustain yourself,
5 probably couldn't live high on the hog, but you know, you
6 could get a start. But that hunger is what led to new
7 enterprises. I still see that in your students here.
8 And that's why I'm so pressed that we must figure out how
9 to give them the belief that yes, you know, the skills
10 and the knowledge, that yes, I can start a new
11 enterprise.

12 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: Well everybody,
13 thank you so much. This was --

14 DR. MCMILLEN: Thank you. Very
15 stimulating, very productive.

16 COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: -- extremely
17 helpful and very productive.

18 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at
19 8:20 p.m.)

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