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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 7090
PUBLIC ACT NO. 07-239

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2008

TIME: 5:03

HELD AT: SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
MICHAEL J. ADANTI STUDENT CENTER THEATER
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

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1 APPEARANCES:

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HON. JOAN McDONALD, COMMISSIONER

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY

5

DEVELOPMENT

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DR. STANLEY McMILLEN, ECONOMIST

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY

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DEVELOPMENT

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MR. McMILLEN: Good evening, ladies

2 and gentlemen. Welcome to Southern Connecticut State
3 University for our sixth public forum. My name is
4 Stan McMillen. I'm the chief economist with the
5 Department of Economic and Community Development.
6 Joining me here tonight is Commissioner Joan McDonald
7 who will say a few words.

8 MS. McDONALD: I feel like I'm the
9 one being interrogated with the light on the project
10 shining right in my eyes. Good evening, everybody,
11 and Happy New Year. Stan is going to take a few
12 minutes, and walk through what we're doing here
13 tonight, and I just want to open by saying when I
14 joined the State of Connecticut in May of 2007 as the
15 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

16 One of my mandates from Governor
17 Rell was to develop a strategic plan looking at where
18 the state is today, and where we will be 5, 10, 15 and
19 20 years out. I don't have a crystal ball so it's a
20 little difficult for me to do that on my own. So what
21 we're doing is undertaking a public participation
22 process where we give you the opportunity to tell us
23 what you think the issues are that are important as we
24 evaluate and we do our analysis, and we develop the
25 initiatives that will keep Connecticut strong over the

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1 next 20 years.

2 So we are really looking forward to
3 hearing what you have to tell us tonight. No idea, no
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4 suggestions should be thought lightly of. We take
5 everything serious here, but we do try to inject a
6 little humor. So we're looking forward to hearing
7 what you all have to say, and with that I'll take it
8 over to Stan to talk about the plan and what our
9 format is here tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you,
11 Commissioner. The strategic plan that Commissioner
12 McDonald spoke of came about through Public Act
13 07-239. Part of a response of section 4 details what
14 the requirements of that plan are. I will talk more
15 briefly about that in a minute. We're going to talk
16 about the purpose of the forums which Commissioner
17 McDonald has already alluded to what the grounds rules
18 are for the process, and before we begin with hearing
19 from you, the Council of Governments will present,
20 will introduce somebody who will present the economic
21 strategy for this region.

22 At each of these meetings we ask the
23 -- there are 15 regional planning associations in the
24 state, and we ask them to present their comprehensive
25 economic development strategies, because we recognize

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1 a lot of good work that's been done, and we hope that
2 it will stimulate your thinking as to the future of
3 this region.

4 As I said, Public Act 07-239 created

5 the requirement for this plan. We need to deliver a
6 plan to the Governor by July 1, 2009. Every 5 years
7 thereafter the plan will be updated and reviewed,
8 modified, because we face a changing environment. As
9 part of this process, we will develop a plan, and we
10 are hosting these regional forums, and there will be
11 other forums of public outreach as well. The plan
12 will as a roadmap for the next a 5, 10, 15 and 20
13 years down the road.

14 The act requires that the plan
15 establish clear and measurable goals. I can imagine
16 the Governor somewhere down the road saying how are we
17 doing, so we've got to be able to succinctly and
18 clearly or articulate how we are doing with respect
19 to where we want to be.

20 The act requires that the plan
21 establish relevant performance measures and annually
22 report on progress, and part of this, as you'll see
23 later, is an integrative process, as the Commissioner
24 has referred to it. We need to come back to the
25 public, and get your input as we go along. The

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1 purpose of the forums is to engage in open dialogue to
2 specify issues and concerns, to identify strategies to
3 move Connecticut's economy forward, and I encourage
4 you to think outside the box, think big and focus on
5 the future. Imagine you are king for a day. How
6 would you change Connecticut? What would it look

7 like? What would it mean if we could call ourselves
8 the state with the best educational system, the best
9 transportation system, the best system for affordable
10 housing? What would that look like?

11 We don't necessarily have to think
12 how to get there or how much it would cost. Just what
13 would it look like? Let's create a vision for where
14 we think we might want to be in the future. The
15 factors that -- the specific factors that we want to
16 address, the areas of concern are the competitiveness
17 of this area, the cost of doing business in the state
18 that breaks down into the regulatory environment,
19 energy costs, tax structure, among others, housing,
20 transportation, work force and responsible growth and
21 development. I think of building a strategic plan as
22 a conceptual framework.

23 The first thing we need to do is
24 understand where we are, and many of you seen this
25 exercise in your religious institutions or your

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1 schools or wherever. You need to know where we are.
2 How we got there requires a lot of data and analysis.
3 This part of the process we need to build a vision.
4 We need to know not only where we are but where we
5 want to get to, and so that's what we're doing with
6 this public outreach. Then the synthesis and roadmap
7 creates the strategies, the tactics, and the matrix

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8 for how to get from where we are to where we want to
9 be. Along the way we have milestones. We have matrix
10 that measure our progress, and we have feedback,
11 continuous feedback from the public.

12 The ground rules. Each forum is
13 transcribed by a transcription service. Jackie is
14 here. We encourage public speakers or the public,
15 when you speak, to come to this table over here and
16 speak into that microphone. The CEDS will be
17 presented in a five-minute presentation as soon as I'm
18 done. Speakers, including elected officials, are
19 limited to 3 minutes. We want you to be specific
20 about the topic that you're addressing in your vision
21 and the time frame, whether it's a 5, 10-year, 15-year
22 or 20-year kind of a vision. Think beyond tonight's
23 forum, and if you are shy or if you have an idea in
24 the middle of the night, here's an e-mail where you
25 can send it, and this is an e-mail that I respond to.

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1 So at this point I would like to call Judy Gott who is
2 the head of the Council of Governments in this region
3 to come forward.

4 MS. GOTT: Thank you. First of all,
5 welcome, Commissioner, to our region, and we're glad
6 to have you here and welcome also to everyone. I
7 represent the South Central Council of Governments.
8 It's the 15 towns in the New Haven region going from
9 Madison to Milford on the shoreline, New Haven to

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10 Meriden north. It's about 600,000 people, one-sixth
11 of our state. So our economic development plan for
12 our region is being developed right now, as we speak,
13 by our Regional Growth Partnership, an arm of our COG
14 that was spun off, and is our economic development
15 arm.

16 We are concentrating our regional
17 plan. Emmiline Harrigan is the land use planner of
18 our agency, and we just completed our long-range
19 transportation for our region all of which information
20 about this is on our website at sccog.org. At this
21 time I would like to introduce Pete Stein who is the
22 actual person in charge of our CEDS who will speak to
23 it for you, let you know where it is at this point.
24 Pete Stein.

25 MR. STEIN: Hi. Thank you so much,

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1 Judy, and thank you, Commissioner, for coming to our
2 region and hearing what we have to say this evening.
3 I'm Pete Stein. I'm acting director of the Regional
4 Growth Partnership. We are the region's economic
5 development organization. We work very closely with
6 the Council of Governments on the economic development
7 for the region. We are a public/private partnership,
8 which is the approach that we take in this region to
9 economic development, and which we think is one of the
10 keys to our success.

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11 Our organization is led by top
12 business leaders from the region combined with chief
13 elected officials who govern our organization and
14 guide our progress, and this public/private approach
15 is also the approach we take to the CEDS process, and
16 we think has made all the difference in what we have
17 done.

18 For the last year the ROG has
19 overseen the development of our new comprehensive
20 economic development strategy, or CEDS for short, and
21 this has been guided by our Strategic Planning
22 Committee, which is a broad waste-based committee made
23 up of members from the business community,
24 representatives of municipalities, universities,
25 nonprofits, and others throughout the region who have

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1 a stake and an interest in economic development. In
2 seeing our region grow and flourish and for the past
3 year, we've been taking a look at what's actually
4 going on in our region. So we can formulate a plan
5 for how to address our issues.

6 The center piece of this effort has
7 been a 6-month public outreach process that we engaged
8 in this spring and this fall where we had meetings
9 much like the one we're having tonight. We had 23 of
10 them, in fact, in 13 communities throughout our
11 region, and 10 of them with different industry groups
12 and interest groups throughout the region to hear what

13 people said, and their concerns about the region's
14 economy, and what were the highlights and what were
15 the challenges of our region's economy to try to get a
16 sense of what it is we should actually be doing.

17 I wanted to share just a few of the
18 findings that we had tonight, which I think shed some
19 real light about where our region's headed, and what
20 our real needs are. So the tough issues that we heard
21 over and over and over in our outreach effort for the
22 CEDS, No. 1 thing we heard over and over was workforce
23 housing. We heard this from business leaders. We
24 heard this from municipal leaders. We heard this from
25 average residents that business leaders are having

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1 trouble hiring people for their businesses, because
2 they are having trouble finding affordable places to
3 live.

4 No. 2 on the list was
5 transportation. Tweed New Haven Airport is a huge
6 regional asset, but it needs to grow, and we need help
7 from the state in making, in helping to make Tweed
8 grow and making that a reality. Feeder barge service.
9 We have the best port on the Long Island Sound, and it
10 does some business, but there's a whole lot more
11 potential there, and we need the state's help to help
12 bring feeder barge service to the port of New Haven so
13 that we can greatly increase the business at the port,

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14 and all the spinoff industries that can handle all the
15 railroad corridor throughout our region if we were
16 bringing more shipping into the port of the New Haven.

17 And, finally, our highways. Our
18 highways are absolutely choked, and we need to focus
19 on investing in rail transportation and bus
20 transportation to help get people off the highways,
21 and just to make sure that we have adequate
22 transportation resources, because our choked highways
23 are killing businesses, they are hurting families, and
24 this needs to be addressed in a big way.

25 Utility costs, we heard over and

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1 over that this is no secret that the electricity costs
2 have gone sky high, and something needs to happen to
3 address these issues. We heard over and over from
4 towns that they're running out of developable land.
5 So one of the strategies we need to pursue
6 brownfields, and our GP actually runs the region's
7 brownfields programs, but we need more state
8 investment in redeveloping brownfields so that we can
9 take properties that are abandoned, and bring them
10 back onto the tax rolls, get productive use so we can
11 create new businesses and jobs on those properties, so
12 we need more support for brownfields.

13 Workforce development. We need to
14 invest in our workers. If we're to have a topnotch
15 workforce that will compete in the 21st Century and

16 top among the workforce development, one of the things
17 we heard was more support for incumbent worker
18 training. We have workers who are productive who are
19 doing a great job, but we need to keep them at the
20 edge of their fields, and we need to be investing with
21 them in the people who are already on the jobs, and
22 more businesses are looking for this kind of support.

23 So those were the top issues that we
24 heard. We also heard some things that to some people
25 was a little bit surprising. Some people have the

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1 sense that manufacturing is dead. They don't see the
2 big 10,000 people factories anymore. But, in fact,
3 what we found in the region is that we have a very
4 vibrant manufacturing sector that is growing. We have
5 lots of small manufacturers doing precision high end
6 manufacturing work, and they're growing, and they need
7 the investment in resources. They need support from
8 the state to help their businesses expand, because
9 they are really the future of job growth in our
10 region.

11 We found other surprises. For
12 instance, route 80, which is the main commercial
13 corridor that runs through East Haven and North
14 Branford, when they went through North Branford, half
15 of route 80 doesn't have high-speed Internet access,
16 which was news to us. For a major commercial corridor

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17 in our region to not have high-speed Internet access
18 in this day, that was a serious issue, and there are
19 other gaps that need to be addressed if all of our
20 towns are to have the opportunities that they should
21 to grow.

22 A lot of people are also surprised
23 to find we actually have a vibrant agricultural sector
24 in our region, which is something that is often
25 overlooked, but we have some fairly sizable

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1 agricultural businesses in our region, and we have
2 some fairly cutting edge agricultural businesses, and
3 we have a renewed interest in people by people in the
4 city who want to connect with fresh food out in rural
5 areas. So there is a lot of opportunity for economic
6 growth in that area.

7 And, finally, we have a budding
8 sector of sustainable energy businesses that are
9 growing here. We have several companies that are into
10 bio fuels and solar panels and anything that's green
11 sustainable. Those are going to be the jobs of the
12 future, and we have them right here in our region. So
13 we have to encourage the growth of those businesses,
14 and help them to grow and produce the jobs of the 21st
15 Century. So.

16 Those are a lot of the findings that
17 we, some of the top findings from our CEDS. What
18 we're in the process of doing right now is taking the

19 issues that we have addressed, and developing
20 strategies that we, as a region, can pursue, to
21 address these issues to help us become competitive,
22 and to help fix a bunch of these issues that we, as a
23 region, can grow. We thank you for coming out, and we
24 look forward to working, Commissioner, to help address
25 these issues.

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1 MS. McDONALD: Thank you. I just
2 want to add one comment there. We saw several folks
3 from the Chamber enter the room this afternoon. Tony
4 Resigno and I were part of the Blue Ribbon Task Force
5 on Housing, and I think one of the things we've all
6 become familiar with are the number of task forces and
7 commissions that we all sit on for the betterment of
8 our communities and our state, and one of the
9 underlying currents that you have is that we don't
10 want any of these plans to just sit on a shelf. So
11 one of the reasons we are involving the regional
12 planning associations is we don't want to re-invent
13 the wheel. We don't want --

14 We need good data so that we can
15 make good decisions, but we don't want to spend all of
16 our time just focusing on the data, and that's why
17 we're interested in hearing what you say, and it will
18 be a blend of some of the long term issues that we
19 have to deal with, workforce housing, transportation,

20 and then some of the immediate issues that can be
21 addressed like Internet access. That's a today issue
22 versus a 5-year out issue. So we're really interested
23 in hearing what you're saying, and we will move onto
24 the next speaker.

25 MR. BAUM: Ms. McDonald, when you

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1 took over your position, were you left with nothing
2 basically to work with? You were starting from
3 scratch?

4 MS. McDONALD: No, no, absolutely
5 not. What DECD does is we are the state agency that's
6 responsible for administering and implementing the
7 state's economic and community development programs,
8 which is a host of programs, the CDBG program, which
9 is money from the Feds, several housing construction
10 programs, some of which are federally funded, some of
11 which are state funded, the Manufacturers' Assistance
12 Act, which provides low interest loans to companies in
13 the state for retention of businesses that we want to
14 retain here or that we want to induce here, businesses
15 that expand.

16 So we have a number of programs that
17 we administer, and we also have several annual reports
18 that we release and that we work on every year, but
19 what was not done was articulating a vision looking
20 out 5, 10, 15, 20 years. A lot of our reports focused
21 on, you know, trends of the past, and this is where we

22 are today. So it's really -- you know, there's a lot
23 of public dialogue going on in Connecticut and the
24 Metropolitan region and New England, across the
25 country about climate control, about climate change,

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1 about green environment. So it's how are we going to
2 set the stage so that Connecticut is as strong in the
3 future as it is today, and what do we need to do to
4 make sure we have our eyes on the prize.

5 MR. McMILLEN: We're not taking
6 questions. The way the process works is you have to
7 sign-up to speak. We'll go through the people who
8 have signed up. Everything that's being said is
9 transcribed. We're not requesting Q and A from the
10 audience. That's not the format. I just want to
11 mention that the transcriptions of each of these
12 forums is available on our website www.decd.org.

13 The other thing I wanted to make you
14 aware of is that all of the comprehensive economic
15 development strategies that exist, all of those
16 strategic plans of all the other agencies and the
17 Department of Transportation is currently formulating
18 their strategic plan. The Department of Higher
19 Education and the State Department of Education, all
20 those plans, the state plan of conservation and
21 development need to be taken into account in this
22 plan.

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23 You say why do we need another plan?
24 This is a comprehensive plan that will sew it
25 altogether; that will give a comprehensive view of

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1 economic development in the state from all points of
2 view. It's not going re-invent the wheel. It will
3 take all those other plans into account. We will
4 start the public dialogue. I want to call Peggy
5 Brennan to speak for the mayor of the City of Meriden.

6 MR. BRENNAN: Thank you,
7 Commissioner and Mr. McMillen. I'm going to read into
8 the record a written statement from Mayor Mark
9 Benigni, Mayor of the City of Meriden. I thank
10 Connecticut DECD for its strong support of economic
11 development projects and programs in Meriden. In
12 addition to providing business loans to our companies,
13 DECD has also provided two and a quarter million
14 dollars to the City to redevelop our 15-acre HUB site
15 downtown. This funding will allow the City to create
16 a town green in our center city, reduce flooding and
17 attract downtown transit-oriented development in
18 conjunction with the planned New Haven and Springfield
19 commuter rail service. DECD's infrastructure and real
20 estate division is working with City staff to make
21 this effort a success.

22 The City believes DECD's strategic
23 plan should include two key elements among its many
24 priorities. Both will help grow Meriden and the

25 state's economy. DECD needs to provide increased

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1 monetary support and financial incentives to attract
2 development opportunities generated from the proposed
3 New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail service.
4 This rail project is critical to the success of
5 economic development efforts all along the I-91
6 corridor. DECD, OPM and ConnDOT should fund
7 environmental design and review work, plans for
8 station design and construction as well as help us
9 prepare adjacent sites for development. We need to
10 put this financial support on the fast track. This
11 increased funding will further the state's responsible
12 growth initiatives.

13 (2) DECD needs to continue its
14 interagency brownfields redevelopment efforts.
15 Meriden has received a million dollars from USEPA for
16 assessment and remediation to assist with brownfields
17 redevelopment. Connecticut DEP and DECD have been and
18 need to remain actively engaged in our efforts. In
19 order to bring back these troubled sites to productive
20 reuse, the state needs to significantly increase
21 funding for remediation and hazards abatement to the
22 levels recommended by the Brownfields Task Force in
23 its 2007 report.

24 The City of Meriden looks forward to
25 working with DECD and its strategic planning efforts.

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1 City economic and community development staff are
2 available to review programs and assist DECD in any
3 new program initiatives. As Mayor, I look forward to
4 a continued partnership with DECD, Connecticut DEP and
5 ConnDOT in our efforts to make Meriden and the state a
6 great place to live work and do business. Please do
7 not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further
8 assistance. Mark D. Benigni, Mayor of Meriden.

9 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. I would
10 like to call Kathleen Bradley to the microphone.

11 MS. BRADLEY: Hello. My name is
12 Kathleen Bradley. I'm here as a citizen and a member
13 of the Westville Renaissance Alliance which is a very
14 tiny 501(c)(3) organization that's been toiling toward
15 working to get Westville Village, which is right over
16 here, part of New Haven. We're working very hard, but
17 I personally -- this is my personal feeling -- is that
18 the state does not really provide a lot of help for
19 organizations that are purely volunteer, don't have
20 staffs. It's very hard to get information and get
21 help with things. Small organizations really need
22 help with like where do you find out about grants, how
23 do you write for them, you know, where do you get
24 information that you need to further your goals.

25 I think that the state would really

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1 gain by supporting small groups like ours in a more
2 aggressive manner, because not only are we working
3 hard in an organization that helps large numbers way
4 beyond the actual number of our organization, but we
5 also provide an awful lot of free labor. I mean, you
6 know, the number of hours and whatever that's put into
7 organizations like ours by volunteers is worth a lot
8 of money. So if the state could just figure out a way
9 to help organizations like ours, I think it would be
10 advantageous to everybody. Thanks.

11 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

12 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Helen
13 Rosenberg.

14 MS. ROSENBERG: Hi. I'm here
15 speaking representing the City of New Haven. I'm with
16 the Office of Economic Development there, and I just
17 want to start by supplementing what Kate had said. I
18 just left the meeting in this building with the
19 Westville Village Renaissance Alliance, and nonprofit
20 groups such as that group add so much to the City and
21 they sponsor events. They work with the local
22 businesses and residents. Specifically they would
23 like to see on-line applications for grants which
24 would facilitate their applying for funds.

25 They would encourage DECD to

1 collaborate with other departments in planning their
2 programing, particularly in locating housing near
3 transportation, public transportation centers, and it
4 might be helpful to have a liaison who they can call
5 with any questions, because sometimes -- as well as
6 for the municipalities, because sometimes it's not
7 clear who we're supposed to call with a general
8 question. Don't forget the inner cities, the
9 enterprise zone, and urban jobs programs have been
10 extremely helpful to New Haven and the other cities
11 that actually I have worked with over the years in
12 keeping manufacturing and other businesses, in
13 particular New Haven biotech businesses, here and
14 helping them to succeed.

15 Also, the Municipal Development
16 Project Program has been a big success in New Haven,
17 and the assistance the state has provided to our River
18 Street Project has helped us bring two businesses with
19 about 100 jobs there so far to a site that would be
20 impossible to develop without state assistance because
21 of the brownfield concerns, because of the quality of
22 the land which requires filings, and because of the
23 need for public improvements. In addition,
24 brownfields of course is a big issue, because the City
25 doesn't have anything to build on other than

1 brownfi el ds.

2 I would rei terate what Pete had sai d
3 about the need for workforce housi ng, the need to
4 provi de workforce traini ng and the need to control --
5 it's not in your hands, but to work with the
6 appropri ate agencies to try and control the utility
7 costs, because I have had a lot of businesses come to
8 me with that concern. Housi ng is import ant, and I
9 thi nk I've covered all the maj or issues. Thank you.

10 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

11 MR. McMI LLEN: Thank you very much.

12 Matthew Sawyer.

13 MR. SAWYER: Well, today I j ust want
14 to di scuss Southern. You know, there's a lot of
15 issues. We can do thi s all day. Speci fi cally they
16 raise the fees rather than tui ti on, and, you know, I
17 don't find thi s fai rest speci ally li ke in the
18 intercessi on, our classes are shorter, but we pay the
19 same aggregate amount as the rest of the peopl e, and
20 we're payi ng more for, proporti onately for time.

21 Also, Southern doesn't have
22 symposi ums li ke Yale and other col leges, and, you
23 know, I would li ke to see more -- li ke I'm proud to
24 see thi s, but I would li ke to see more symposi ums and
25 stuff here. You know, Yale does a really good j ob

1 wi th thi s.

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2 Also, to talk about the housing.
3 It's mostly in, you know, the entrepreneur's interest
4 to not actually build more houses, because, you know,
5 they control the market. Yeah, Tweed, you know, I've
6 never been there. I don't think I'll ever go there.
7 I would like to, and I would like to see some, you
8 know, JetBlue and major, you know, cheaper airlines
9 there. Yeah, the highways are choked. I mean, you
10 know, it's mostly during rush hour.

11 UI bills. I find the more I work
12 and the more I go to school, the less I pay for UI,
13 because I'm never there, so I guess I just go there.
14 I switched to Energy Star, and my bill went down about
15 20 percent. Yeah, I live in a small apartment. Yeah,
16 I mean, buildup. I don't know. We don't have a lot
17 of incentive to build through, you know, material
18 waste, you know, old batteries and oil buried so, you
19 know, buildup. Yeah, I mean, that's it, so thank you.

20 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Peggy
21 Brennan.

22 MS. BRENNAN: I'm speaking as the
23 president of the Connecticut Economic Development
24 Association, Peggy Brennan. As CEDAS president, I
25 want to thank you for the opportunity for the planning

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1 process. As you know, CEDAS is a not-for-profit
2 economic development membership organization committed
3 to advancing the practice of economic development in

4 Connecticut. CEDAS' 200 plus members include economic
5 development professionals working at the local,
6 regional and state levels, members of municipal
7 economic development commissions, representatives from
8 utilities, lending institutions and consultants.
9 CEDAS' Board of Directors is composed of 21 members
10 who are representative of the economic development
11 profession in all regions of the state.

12 I'm going to just briefly touch on
13 three or four issues that are challenges, and
14 important for the development of the plan. The issues
15 are very complex, and really can't be fully addressed
16 here so I'll go quickly through them. CEDAS will be
17 very happy to flush out the issues in further detail
18 with the Department if that's, if you would like us to
19 do that.

20 Cost of doing business. CEDAS
21 members can document that many companies have left the
22 state due to Connecticut's high cost of doing
23 business. Health care insurance Workers' Comp,
24 personal and real property taxes, unemployment comp
25 and high energy costs make it difficult to retain

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1 companies and recruit new companies to the state.

2 The state needs to develop a
3 comprehensive strategy that fully recognizes the
4 negative impact high costs have on retention and

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5 recruitment. These costs make us significantly less
6 competitive. Perhaps we can jointly assess incentives
7 and other programs that can in some way ameliorate
8 this problem.

9 Workforce development. Businesses
10 are clearly having a difficult time finding qualified
11 workers to fill new positions and to replace retirees.
12 There is a shortage of qualified applicants. High
13 housing costs contribute to the problems. Many
14 candidates lack job readiness skills. Maintaining
15 Connecticut's educated workforce in the face of
16 poverty and increased immigration requires investment
17 and vision. Education initiatives from improved
18 preschool to tuition-free community colleges for
19 residents need to be seriously assessed. Connecticut
20 needs to improve and provide training to its existing
21 workforce. According to the Alliance of Greater New
22 Haven, demand for incumbent work training has far
23 exceeded available resources. It has a detailed plan
24 and we would be happy to work with you and them on
25 that.

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1 Reassess economic development
2 incentive program requirements. The state needs to
3 reassess incentive program requirements, and end the
4 automatic pilot pursuit of adding more jobs, and using
5 job numbers as the major indicator of success. The
6 focus of adding more jobs does little to help

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7 residents earn higher incomes, and enjoy a better
8 quality of life. The central focus of economic
9 development should shift from adding new jobs to
10 boosting incomes and creating better jobs for
11 residents. CEDAS recommends that as part of the
12 strategic plan DECD begin a comprehensive review of
13 all tax incentive and financial incentive programs
14 related to economic development. Many of the current
15 programs were created years ago when we did not face
16 the unique challenges we face today. Again, CEDAS
17 will be happy to work with DEP and other state
18 agencies to provide practical input on current
19 programs, and discuss how programs can be improved,
20 restructured or replaced.

21 Brownfields redevelopment. We
22 believe that the statewide and holistic approach to
23 brownfields redevelopment is a prerequisite to
24 returning contaminated properties to productive reuse,
25 creating land for economic development opportunities

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1 and improving the quality of life in our communities.
2 We believe that brownfields redevelopment must be a
3 key strategy central to the implementation of any
4 state responsible growth initiative. The Office of
5 Brownfields Remediation and Development is a step in
6 this direction, and we want to support their efforts.
7 Thank you on behalf of CEDAS, and we are available to

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8 help in any way we can.

9 MR. McMILLEN: Melissa Dayton.

10 MS. DAYTON: Hi. My name is Melissa
11 Dayton, and I'm with the Adult Training and
12 Development Network in Hartford. We provide
13 professional development services to our adult
14 education system in Connecticut, and I would like to
15 speak to the role of adult education and workforce
16 development, and make the case that support of
17 Connecticut's workforce education initiative is an
18 economic development imperative.

19 The adult education system is
20 playing a major role in creating economic development
21 opportunities for employers through its workforce
22 education initiative. Workers cannot progress on the
23 job if they don't have the basic skills or facility
24 with English to participate in training, to read
25 safety manuals or to use mathematical calculations.

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1 Ongoing education within the
2 workplace is the key to creating and maintaining a
3 higher quality labor force, which also addresses the
4 immediate competitive and quality needs of business
5 and industry. For this reason adult education
6 programs truly need your support so that businesses
7 and our state can continue to grow and develop.

8 Many adult education providers have
9 been trained to work with employers to identify the

10 skills gaps of their employees, and then customize
11 curriculum to meet the employer's needs, and deliver
12 instruction in the workplace with certified teachers.
13 With an employer community requiring more and more
14 technical skills of its incumbent workers, adult
15 education programs are connected to the workplace
16 needs in their regions, and are offering high quality
17 services to employers while helping their adult
18 residents increase the skill levels and their
19 opportunities for success on the job.

20 While DECD is in the process of
21 drafting a new economic plan for our state, we are
22 requesting that adult education and its workplace
23 education programs be included in your factors
24 affecting Connecticut today and in the future, and it
25 becomes one of the focal points for your blueprint.

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1 The adult education system needs your support so that
2 business and our state can grow together to develop
3 our existing and future workforce.

4 I would like to thank the
5 Commissioner and your staff for giving us the
6 opportunity to speak this evening, and we are
7 committed to working with you and cooperating in any
8 way we can. Thank you.

9 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

10 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Nicholas

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11 Montano.

12 MR. MONTANO: Good evening. My name
13 is Nicholas Montano. I'm the assistant principal at
14 New Haven Adult and Continuing Education. New Haven
15 Adult Education is a major provider of workplace
16 literacy, training and education in the workforce for
17 the State of Connecticut adult education programs.
18 Adult education plays a major role in creating
19 economic development opportunities for its students.
20 We know for a fact that a high school diploma means
21 earning nearly \$20,000 per year more than someone
22 without that credential.

23 Adult education programs funded with
24 state, local and federal dollars graduate students
25 each year, but the system cannot handle the sheer

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1 numbers of students, more than 400,000 that do not
2 have a high school diploma, and nearly 100,000
3 individuals who clearly cannot or clearly classify
4 themselves as not speaking English well. These
5 individuals makeup the labor pool from which employers
6 draw their employees.

7 Adult education plays a major role
8 in creating economic development opportunities for
9 employers as well. Many adult education providers
10 have been trained to work with employers to identify
11 the skill gaps of their employees, and customize
12 curriculum to meet their employer's needs, and deliver

13 instruction in the workplace with certified teachers.

14 With an employer community requiring
15 more and more technical skills of its incumbent
16 workers, adult education programs are connected to the
17 workplace needs in their regions, and are offering
18 high quality services to employers while helping their
19 adult residents increase their skill levels and their
20 opportunities for success on the job.

21 And I would like to just add to that
22 point that we are not only serving adults. We are
23 also serving the highly challenged young adult
24 learner. The adult education system is designing and
25 planning programs that meet each student's need for

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1 education and self-sufficiency as well as each
2 community's need for the economic growth and
3 stability.

4 Adult education has been able to
5 assist adults in achieving their educational goals,
6 obtaining or advancing in their jobs, entering post
7 secondary education, and participating more fully as
8 family and community members. The adult education
9 system will continue to work closely with other
10 organizations to ensure coordination of effort,
11 increased accountability and program access to those
12 individuals in need of adult education services in
13 Connecticut.

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14 As economic development planning
15 efforts continue, Connecticut's adult education system
16 and its providers are essential to the economic
17 development success of our state. I'm very pleased to
18 be able to say that we have, along with many other
19 districts, served well our employers in our areas.
20 New Haven Adult Education in the past years have
21 served AT&T, the Hospital of St. Raphael, Yale-New
22 Haven Hospital, Covidian Manufacturing, HID
23 Corporation, Sargent Manufacturing, just to name a
24 few; not just in basic skills but also in literacy,
25 mathematics and problem solving skills, workplace

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1 readiness, and to advancing students so that they can
2 entity Gateway Community College, one of our major
3 partners, and I would like to thank the Commissioner
4 and your staff for allowing me to speak.

5 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir. Lee
6 Cruz.

7 MR. CRUZ: My name is Lee Cruz. I
8 work at the Community Foundation for Greater New
9 Haven, and our presentation is fundamentally about
10 creating neighborhoods of choice, and about
11 neighborhoods that attract and maintain the workforce
12 that we need in Connecticut. The Community Foundation
13 started working with the Chatham Square Neighborhood
14 Association about a year and a half ago to increase
15 neighborhood stabilization, revitalization while

16 developing strategies that can be replicated in other
17 neighborhoods.

18 Our presentation shows how we
19 started doing that work, so I won't go into those
20 details, and it also identifies where the neighborhood
21 is. Chatham Square serves about 3,500 people and
22 about 1,100 households, 42 percent Hispanic, \$33,000
23 median income with a solid housing stock of two and
24 three-family structures.

25 In this neighborhood we have

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1 identified why people like to live there, and what
2 some of the limitations are in terms of what keeps
3 people from deciding to live in the neighborhood. We
4 also came up with a plan that's based on changing the
5 image of the neighborhood, improving the physical
6 condition, changing the market toward what residents
7 want, and also defining what works in terms of issues
8 that the neighborhood would like to have improved as a
9 result of the plan.

10 We have given you here selected
11 results, because there are many more than are
12 documented here in terms of what has improved the
13 image of the neighborhood, what has improved the
14 physical condition of the neighborhood, which, in
15 essence, is the repair of over 22 homes through
16 incentive grants where we combined our money with the

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17 money of the residents, and how we got other people to
18 fix their homes without providing incentive grants.

19 We also give you some detail about
20 how residents started raising money for their own
21 traffic calming study separate from money that's
22 available from the City, and that included both door
23 knocking, fund-raising as well as getting major donors
24 from among the residents of the neighborhood.

25 We were able, bottom line, to

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1 attract realtors into the neighborhood, to tour the
2 neighborhood, and to get \$700,000 in sales that are
3 directly connected to the association. This really
4 works. We were able to really change the
5 neighborhood. We did a survey in October of 2006, and
6 the same survey again in September of 2007, and the
7 most important things that I want to point out about
8 that survey is how we showed residents that we can
9 actually change the quality of life of the
10 neighborhood, how we improved the image of the
11 neighborhood inside and outside, and also how we
12 affected the physical condition of the neighborhood,
13 and all of these are presented to you with statistical
14 graphs.

15 The cost for doing this is \$80,000
16 in the neighborhood, almost half of which was as a
17 part-time community organizer. We believe this works.
18 We believe the City of New Haven should support it,

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19 and we believe the State of Connecticut should support
20 it as well. Thank you very much. I also want to say
21 that the last four pages are just supporting
22 documentation for this presentation. Thank you very
23 much. We do have a resident that came, and wants to
24 say something as well.

25 MR. McMILLEN: Next is Hope Metcalf.

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1 MS. METCALF: Yes.

2 MS. METCALF: We're organized.

3 MR. McMILLEN: Hope Metcalf.

4 MS. METCALF: Hi. My name is Hope
5 Metcalf. I am a resident of the Fair Haven
6 Neighborhood in New Haven, Connecticut. I am also a
7 member of the Chatham Square Neighborhood Association.
8 I just wanted to briefly talk from my personal
9 experience of having participated in the neighborhood
10 association as a new resident, someone who has chosen
11 to live in Fair Haven.

12 My husband and I moved from New York
13 City several years ago to New Haven. We chose New
14 Haven coming from New York. We're both professionals
15 and we chose New Haven because of the urban renewal,
16 and the sense of resurgence and positive momentum in
17 the City; and when we looked where to invest in our
18 first home, we chose Fair Haven and specifically the
19 Chatham Square Neighborhood because of the sense of

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20 forward looking momentum among residents, the sense of
21 neighborliness, and it came very close to satisfying
22 my personal dream, which was to find a place that
23 would be both diverse and yet foster a sense of small
24 town community values that I grew up with in rural
25 Vermont.

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1 As strange as that might sound, I
2 think we found it, and we found it largely due to the
3 efforts of the Chatham Square Neighborhood
4 Association, which is really an extraordinary group of
5 people; not extraordinary individually but
6 extraordinary in how they come together. We have a
7 lawyer, a doctor, a sanitation worker, teachers,
8 artists. It's black, white, Latino, Spanish speakers,
9 English speakers, and we come together, and we hash
10 out goals with the support of the community
11 foundation, but it really is a grassroots, bottom up
12 effort.

13 I would strongly recommend to the
14 state that you will see lasting change if you will
15 harness the enormous talent and resources of
16 Connecticut's, really our best resource, which is its
17 residents, so thank you very much.

18 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you.

19 MR. McMILLEN: Please state your
20 name. I don't want to misstate it.

21 MS. STURGIS PASCALE: Yes. My name
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22 is Erin Sturgis Pascale. I thank you, Commissioner
23 McDonald and Mr. McMillen, very much. I appreciate
24 this opportunity to share with you. I'm the
25 Alderwoman from the 14th Ward, which where the Chatham

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1 Square Neighborhood Association is located, and I
2 really found my political voice through this
3 association, which I think speaks volumes to the power
4 of community-based action, and so I've been a
5 neighborhood advocate for a long time, and been
6 involved with Chatham Square since its inception, and
7 I've spent a lot of time considering the features of a
8 healthy and safe community.

9 It is very instructive, I think,
10 that one of the most prominent examples of activism
11 that have grown out of the Chatham Square Neighborhood
12 Association is this concern about traffic in the
13 neighborhood. It's widespread. It's everyone who is
14 worried about this.

15 So I've come to understand that the
16 crucial role that streetscapes play in the support,
17 and sadly in most cases, the decline of a
18 neighborhood, a fact that holds true for towns, cities
19 and even the state in which these neighborhoods are
20 found. For many decades our government, all levels of
21 government, state, federal, local governments, we have
22 pursued inappropriate development strategies that have

23 placed automobiles at the center of our built
24 environment. Parking lots and strip malls have been,
25 and continue to be, built. Sidewalks have been

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1 neglected, and the face-to-face interaction at the
2 core of civic life has been eroded by these design
3 choices.

4 There is a growing chorus of voices
5 everywhere that are speaking about smart growth, and
6 this is really encouraging, or new urbanism or
7 whatever people want to call it, but I really hope
8 that we're poised to start to do it. We have talked a
9 lot about it so let's really start to do it. We need
10 pedestrian scale development that incorporates mixed
11 use, and this has a tremendous impact on the economic
12 and civic health of a community.

13 A well-designed street attracts
14 residents and businesses alike. Businesses that wish
15 to attract the youngest and brightest new employees
16 make relocation decisions based on the appeal and
17 attractiveness of an area. Vibrant city centers with
18 cultural amenities and attractive, very key word
19 there, attractive public transportation have a
20 distinct advantage over other areas, and in my opinion
21 Connecticut has failed to keep pace with the emerging
22 demands of this kind of development. I mean, we live
23 in such a mobile society. We are really competing
24 with the West Coast and the Dessert Southwest, and

25 they are really 20 years ahead of us in terms of

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1 making these kind of design decisions, and we need to
2 make this up quickly.

3 We spoke of a time line and I say
4 now yesterday. It's really impossible to overestimate
5 the impact on economic and community development of
6 poor transportation policy and planning and not
7 policy. Congestion damages businesses, devalues real
8 estate, and robs. Dismal or nonexistent, public
9 transportation forces people into cars as their own
10 reasonable means of transportation, consuming an ever
11 increasing portion of their household budgets and
12 sending most of that money out-of-state.

13 For the economic and civic health of
14 our communities, we desperately need a new development
15 strategy that embraces higher density human scale
16 developments. We need plazas, public art,
17 roundabouts, streetcars, pedestrian-only zones. We
18 need opportunities to live near our jobs, and
19 opportunities to shop, bank and socialize with others
20 within walking distance of our homes and sidewalks
21 that connect all of these. We really need to reinvest
22 in our cities, and we need the state's help to do
23 that, so thank you very much.

24 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Jerry
25 Clupper.

1 MR. CLUPPER: Commissioner, thank
2 you. Jerry Clupper. I'm the executive director of
3 the New Haven Manufacturers' Association. That's
4 C-L-U not K, which most people would do. We are the
5 representative of the manufacturing sector here in the
6 New Haven region. As Pete Stein talked before, many
7 people are surprised to find out that it is one of the
8 strongest and most important parts of our economy in
9 this area.

10 As an association, we work to
11 collaborate and partner with people like RGP, with
12 CEDS, with Workforce Alliance, and with you at DECD as
13 well, Commissioner. In fact, we're looking forward,
14 you know, to you presenting and talking to our group
15 on the 14th of February where we can have a much more
16 detailed discussion about many of the things that
17 we've talked about here.

18 I think what I would like to do here
19 is since many of these things are already included in
20 the CEDS, and also in the cluster priorities that were
21 developed a year ago, I mean, they are well documented
22 as being important for manufacturing, so I would take
23 a few of the things, and maybe talk about what I think
24 priorities might be. One of those I would talk about,
25 when we are talking about the high cost of

1 Connecticut, I think we have to include the time that
2 it takes to make decisions.

3 Time is money as well for
4 manufacturers and businesses as well as just the
5 dollars that go out. Many times the time becomes more
6 important, actually, than the actual dollar; not to
7 diminish dollars, but time, I think, needs to be
8 emphasized more. I would also talk about the fact
9 that Pete brought out that the smaller companies are
10 really a very important part of what we have here for
11 economic growth. That's where the growth is in terms
12 of jobs, and it's also where the innovations come in.

13 So when we talk about support for
14 innovations, because we're talking about high-tech
15 companies now when we talk about manufacturing, we
16 need ways to support smaller companies, companies that
17 don't have departments that are just dedicated to
18 that, but can bring those things together.

19 I would also talk about training a
20 little bit, and say that when we talk about the
21 education, the workforce development, we really are
22 talking about starting in grammar school, because many
23 kids make a decision about what their future job path
24 will be very early, you know, junior high school. So
25 if we don't get past that manufacturing is dead and

1 the 3 D's, dark, dirty and dangerous ideas for
2 manufacturing, you know, it won't matter that we've
3 got incumbent worker training which we need,
4 obviously, but we need to address the way that people
5 think as well.

6 And the last thing I would mention
7 is that as with any good business, you know, the best
8 customer you have for growing is the current customer
9 you have, and I would say let's emphasize supporting
10 the companies that we already have here much more so
11 than the few we might be able to bring in from out of
12 state or, I hate to mention it, the movie people who
13 come and go and get so many positive things, you know.
14 The manufacturers stay here. The jobs stay here.
15 It's a critical part of our economy in Connecticut,
16 and we want to stay here. So we look forward to
17 seeing you on the 14th, Commissioner.

18 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

19 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, Jerry.

20 MR. McMILLEN: Emmiline Harrigan.

21 MS. HARRIGAN: I thought that was
22 the sign-in list. I actually don't want to speak,
23 sorry.

24 MR. McMILLEN: That's okay.

25 MS. McDONALD: It's not required.

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1 MR. McMILLEN: Sean Moore.

2 MR. MOORE: Good evening. My name
3 is Sean Moore. I am president of the Greater Meriden
4 Chamber of Commerce, and through the Chamber of
5 Commerce and many other organizations we are involved
6 in economic development on a daily basis. I have Judy
7 Gott here who we work with on a regular basis with the
8 Council of Governments. I am the I-91 transportation
9 investment area rep on the Transportation Strategy
10 Board. I work with Bill Villano and folks at the
11 Workforce Board, and Pete Stein and others at the
12 Regional Growth Partnership, and we are of the opinion
13 that a successful economic development program is best
14 accomplished when the public and private partnerships
15 work together with as many partners as possible.

16 It works best when the cities and
17 the towns work together with the DECD and other state
18 departments and agencies when we work with the
19 regional boards and commissions, higher education,
20 utility companies and financial institutions, and also
21 work together with all of the Chambers of Commerce in
22 the State of Connecticut. In Connecticut there are
23 over 65 Chambers of Commerce, and all Chambers, I
24 believe, need to be a very integral part of the
25 solution.

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1 I encourage the Department to

2 forming broad partnerships with all the Chambers of
3 Commerce in our state as we work together toward a
4 very common goal of solid and sustained economic
5 growth in our state, and I would like to thank you for
6 your support in the past, and look forward to
7 continuing to work with DECD in the future. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Thomas
10 Marano.

11 MR. MARANO: Thank you. Once again,
12 I know this is the third time that you've seen me I
13 promise not to come out again. Tom Marano with NU.
14 I'm actually here not on any business, but I am the
15 chairman of the Greater Meriden Chamber, and I just
16 wanted to add a little more detail to what Sean said.
17 We have a few specific recommendations as far as
18 partnering the chambers with the agency.

19 First, all of the chambers have
20 ambassador programs, and I know that you also have a
21 business visitation program, so we encourage you to
22 work with us so that our ambassadors can extend the
23 reach of our business visitation program. Secondly,
24 we can help you in your national marketing campaign.
25 We all have got Websites, and through linkages between

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1 your site and our sites, it just, once again, extends
2 that reach. As well, we can attend conferences,
3 sometimes with you so that when you guys are going

4 out --

5 MS. McDONALD: I think that's Sean.

6 MR. MARANO: Oh, that was good.

7 MS. McDONALD: That was Sean.

8 MR. MARANO: Can I have his time?

9 MR. MOORE: I'll yield my minutes.

10 MR. MARANO: I am his boss. Where I
11 was at is when you guys go to national shows, we would
12 like to come out with you. You know, there again, we
13 can help extend the reach, we can walk the floors, and
14 we can be in places where you are not. Thirdly, when
15 you do client tours, we would request that you contact
16 the local chamber.

17 We can do a couple things. One, our
18 members can kind of layout the local welcome mat as
19 well as they can give sort of local information that
20 your staff may not give. So we would like to work
21 with you especially in Meriden, and we thank you for
22 this effort.

23 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, Tommy.

24 Bill Villano.

25 MR. VILLANO: Thank you. My name is

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1 Bill Villano. I'm the director of Workforce Alliance,
2 which is the job training organization in this region.
3 We're one of five in the state, and we are aligned
4 exactly along the five DECD regions, which would make

5 it real easy to deal with us. I wanted to, you know,
6 say that there are a lot of -- from an economic
7 standpoint there are a lot of positive things about
8 Connecticut, and you can see documents like this one
9 that enumerate those, and show how well Connecticut
10 does against the rest of the country.

11 But what I would also say is the
12 Workforce Alliance has been doing a state of the
13 workforce report for the last several years, and there
14 are troubling trends that challenge what our current
15 position is. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail
16 with these, but, you know, you've heard them all,
17 affordable workforce housing, drop out rates, and
18 things like that, and what I really wanted to
19 concentrate on is incumbent worker training, training
20 our existing workforce.

21 You've also heard we're an old
22 state. We're the seventh oldest state in the country.
23 The latest census figures show that we're 44 in
24 population growth. So I've always used, you know, the
25 line from the Crosby, Stills & Nash song, you know,

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1 you gotta love the one you're with. If we're going to
2 be effective, and if we're going to continue the
3 quality of life and our competitiveness, we need to
4 train that existing workforce.

5 You know, we celebrated in
6 September, I think, passing the milestone of a million

7 seven jobs that, you know, surpassed the July, 2000
8 total, but what I can tell you in the region and the
9 14 job clusters, the top five job growth areas were at
10 the bottom of the pay scale, you know, so we're
11 growing some jobs where we really need to be conscious
12 of the types of jobs that we're growing. We need to
13 work with this existing workforce. We need to make
14 sure they keep pace with technology, and are able to
15 work effectively for us to compete.

16 I want to give you just two
17 examples. You know, most of the states around us get
18 it. Massachusetts puts about \$22 million into
19 incumbent worker training, New York \$25 million. Even
20 little tiny Rhode Island puts \$8 million into
21 incumbent worker training. If you look at that on a
22 per capita basis -- I'm sorry, I only have one of
23 these charts, which I'll leave with you. We're here.
24 We're 16 cents on a per capita basis. Massachusetts
25 is \$6 and so on.

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1 I would encourage you -- I know DECD
2 does some of it, you know. The boards do some of it.
3 We don't put enough investment in it, and we don't do
4 it in a coordinated fashion, and we need to do this.

5 And I guess my last pitch is, you
6 know, there was some legislation that failed last
7 session that will be introduced again this year, The

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8 Campaign for Working Connecticut, that is trying to
9 address these issues, and I would urge you to support
10 that as well.

11 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you.

12 MR. McMILLEN: Lou Mangini.
13 Hopefully I'm saying that correctly.

14 MR. MANGINI: It's close enough.
15 Hi. Lou Mangini. I'm here from Congresswoman Rosa
16 DeLauro's office. I signed up by accident, but I
17 wanted to bring up two things. My experience working
18 in the office, and one of the things that Jerry
19 Clupper mentioned from the New Haven Manufacturers
20 Association is time. The time it takes to do things
21 here in the State of Connecticut, and, you know, of
22 course, you know, time is money.

23 MS. McDONALD: The land of steady
24 habits.

25 MR. MANGINI: Yeah, yeah, very, very

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1 steady, and well thought out and well-developed
2 habits. Judy, when did the Ferry Street Bridge close?

3 MS. GOTT: Years ago.

4 MR. MANGINI: 2002? So the Ferry
5 Street Bridge, which is one of the bridges that
6 connects Fair Haven to the other side of New Haven,
7 was closed down for emergency repairs back in 2002.
8 With a couple of different offices, we immediately
9 combed the money together without going to the

10 Connecticut Department of Transportation. Right now,
11 because the Ferry Street Bridge is in view from where
12 I live, I can see that it's still under construction.
13 I know that it will be open soon.

14 But the point is something that we
15 knew that had to be repaired and had to be done in a
16 hurry has taken approximately six, seven years now
17 and/or five or six years, and the problem is we
18 actually thought that that was a good thing. I mean,
19 we actually thought that the timing that we got out of
20 the project by getting the DEP permits and getting the
21 design and by doing the construction is, I mean,
22 relatively speaking, it was quick. It was something
23 that we knew we needed to do, but when you're talking
24 about something that needs to be done quick, when you
25 are talking about a brownfield remediation or

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1 improving transportation infrastructure in a way
2 that'll help the regional economy, I, mean those sorts
3 of things should be somehow streamlined or, you know,
4 perhaps the DECD could have a larger role in getting
5 people to communicate with those agencies.

6 Another thing, and everyone has
7 talked about the cost of business, one of the positive
8 things I wanted to mention is done regionally and
9 could be implemented by the State of Connecticut, the
10 City of West Haven, along with the RGP, we just

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11 recently had a site selector tour. You know, there
12 are specific people out there whose jobs are just to
13 look at areas, look at states, look at these things,
14 and determine whether or not they would like their
15 clients to do business in your state, and the more
16 often we can do that the better. I mean, it can't
17 hurt to access these people who have access to so many
18 more other people. Thank you.

19 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, Lou.
20 Leonard J -- I'm sorry, I can't --

21 MR. SMART: Smart.

22 MR. McMILLEN: Smart, okay.

23 MR. SMART: Gentlemen, my name is
24 Leonard J. Smart. I am the associate director,
25 Greater New Haven Business and Professional

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1 Association. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation setup
2 back in 1965. Our mandate and our mission has been
3 economic development and opportunities for women and
4 minorities in the Greater New Haven area, again, since
5 1965. I'm just here to advocate on behalf of the
6 agency for what we will termed a micro loan, a micro
7 program that deals with brownfields.

8 It is our feeling -- it's our
9 feeling that identification of brownfield sites,
10 assessment of those sites, and provision of money for
11 remediation of those sites is one of the keys to
12 economic development in some of our inner city areas.

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13 When I talk to my colleagues in Waterbury, Hartford,
14 Bridgeport, Stamford, New Britain, Bristol, we all
15 focus in on this, because we know that there are a lot
16 of little pockets of property that are developable in
17 our cities, but without dealing with this brownfields
18 remediation we can't go anywhere.

19 We recognize the fact that if you've
20 got a small business, and they've got two employees,
21 and they can expand their space and go to four
22 employees, they hire people that look like them in
23 their neighborhoods, and they've also increased their
24 employment by 100 percent. So, again, we ask that as
25 part of this overall conversation, that some

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1 consideration be given to this type of thing. We have
2 worked with the Regional Growth Partnership and others
3 on this issue. We presume this will be an integral
4 part of the competence of the economic development
5 strategy that's being developed, and, once again, we
6 look for that type of help. Thank you.

7 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir.
8 Michael Pol o.

9 MR. POLO: Good evening. Thank you,
10 Commissioner. Michael Pol o. I own a manufacturing
11 company in Manchester, Connecticut called Adchem
12 Manufacturing Technologies. I just want to say that
13 manufacturing is alive and well. I look at a lot of

14 faces when we say manufacturing in the State of
15 Connecticut, and people think we are freaking out or
16 something, but we have -- I belong to the Aerospace
17 Component Manufacturers Association. There's 54
18 companies that have \$1.8 billion in sales and 4,000
19 employees, so there's a lot of manufacturing in this
20 state.

21 The one thing I wanted to mention is
22 to think out of the box a little bit. One of our
23 members worked at Pratt & Whitney, moved to Alabama
24 for five years, and in Alabama what they do is the
25 State of Alabama came up with some funds, and in new

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1 programs when the OEMs, the original equipment
2 manufacturers, develop new engines or helicopters,
3 companies come in, and they fund the tooling to make
4 these parts, okay?

5 What Alabama did was they bought the
6 tooling, and the State of Alabama owned it, and what
7 that does is the OEMs then can move those tools to
8 other states or countries and move those jobs, and
9 they end up keeping like 450 jobs in Alabama just
10 because the state funded the tooling.

11 We've talked to the small business
12 advocate, Rob Simmons, about this, and that type of
13 concept makes so much sense. There's new engines.
14 There's the geared turbo fan, and, you know, starting
15 in 2013 we're looking at like 3,000 engines a year.

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16 If we can keep that work in this state, then that
17 would be an incredible coup for us.

18 And the only other thing I wanted to
19 add is finding capable people in the State of
20 Connecticut is kind of difficult. I really think the
21 state needs to start doing some advertising, and let
22 them know that, yes, manufacturing is alive, and, yes,
23 that there's very high paying, very high-tech jobs
24 that are still in the State of Connecticut. Thank you
25 very much.

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1 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Win Baum.

2 MR. BAUM: Good evening. My name is
3 Winthrop Baum, and I'm the chairman of the Fairfield
4 County Commercial Brokers Network. I represent a
5 number of commercial realtors/commercial brokers in
6 Fairfield County, and I speak for all commercial
7 brokers in the State of Connecticut. We are the
8 state's cheerleaders. We're out there trying to sell
9 Connecticut on a daily basis literally. I've got to
10 tell you it's not an easy chore. We are up against a
11 lot of competition, and, unfortunately, what we've
12 been running into is a lot of push back from companies
13 outside the area.

14 We are seeing, as a result of this,
15 a lack of companies coming into the state, and we are
16 attracting companies out of the state. So for the

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17 last few years what we have been doing as commercial
18 brokers is simply moving companies around the state,
19 working with companies that are already in state.
20 Now, I don't have to tell you that's a recipe for
21 disaster, and our economic forecasts show that if we
22 do not start getting new companies coming into this
23 state, we're going to be in deep economic trouble. So
24 our recommendation, our urging is that we incentivize
25 companies to locate to Connecticut.

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1 We recently saw something that
2 happened quite by accident, and somebody had mentioned
3 this earlier, but the film industry all of a sudden
4 took a great shine to Connecticut, and for the first
5 time we were getting phone calls from California, from
6 Vancouver, Canada, from other places that were
7 producing films, and the reason for that was in July
8 of 2006 a new law went into effect allowing the film
9 industry to obtain a substantial tax credit for making
10 films in this state.

11 Now, I say by happenstance that
12 occurred, because this was not a economically driven
13 incentive. This was an incentive designed to attract
14 tourism to the state. But what it ultimately did was
15 it woke everybody up that was making movies, that was
16 producing films, and they said, hey, Connecticut's an
17 opportunity. Let's check it out. Well, they did and
18 as a result, I think we achieved over \$400 million

19 worth of revenue spent in the state that would
20 otherwise have gone elsewhere.

21 I believe it's vital that we target,
22 and if I may speak for a couple minutes more, I think
23 it's vital that we incentivize companies to seek out
24 Connecticut as a location to do business. There's
25 certain things that we have also seen and tie into

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1 what other people have said that also make us wonder
2 what's going on at the legislative level. For
3 example, the transportation bill that was recently
4 much praised, much touted where \$1.3 billion was
5 allocated for transportation. Well, we know that
6 transportation is less the problem and workforce
7 housing is the greater issue. If the people could
8 work where they live, well, we wouldn't have the
9 arteries clogged.

10 The other point of the
11 transportation bill was that they were making major
12 purchases of railcars so that the rail system could be
13 upgraded. Well, I live in Fairfield, and, you know, I
14 work in Norwalk, and for me to get to the train I
15 would have to wait three years for a parking
16 allocation. That just doesn't make any sense. So
17 I'll never take the train, because I'm not going to
18 put up with a 3-year wait for a parking pass. So it's
19 this kind of backward thinking that has produced a

20 result that really isn't getting us anywhere.

21 Now, the \$1.3 billion could be a lot
22 better spent if the people that work near where they
23 live were incentivized to continue to do so, and,
24 likewise, employers might also be incentivized to
25 employ people in their neighborhood. These are

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1 critical components that will help alleviate a lot of
2 the stress that we're under right now. Thank you very
3 much.

4 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir. Bert
5 Sacco.

6 MR. SACCO: Good evening, and thank
7 you for the opportunity to speak. To Mr. Baum's
8 comments, I would say here-here. He's absolutely
9 right and right on target. I'm a civil engineer and a
10 planner. I've been involved in economic development
11 projects for the last 40 years, with your department
12 for the last 20 of them. First question is why
13 manufacturing in Connecticut? Because it's a huge
14 cash generator. We produce products, we send them out
15 of the state, and cash comes back in. One company in
16 Bridgeport has built boats for Alaska, New York and
17 Bermuda for \$350 million over the last 4 years.
18 That's the kind of impact manufacturing has.

19 What are the two problems with
20 manufacturing? Lack of an employable workforce.
21 You've already heard this, and I think Bill Villano

22 and others have a handle on it. We need more action
23 on this. The other one is lack of sites. We can have
24 all the greatest transportation, the greatest labor
25 force, but if a manufacturer can't expand his company

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1 or build a new building, he's gone; and if you don't
2 think he has places to go, check the head hunters that
3 are walking around Connecticut from Alabama,
4 Mississippi and Louisiana trying to recruit our
5 companies every day.

6 The Louisiana Light & Power Company
7 has a representative here all the time, and they're
8 working in our machine tool communities trying to get
9 our machine tool companies down South. Now, the state
10 has -- I'm going to be very detailed here. The state
11 has a program called the Community Development Program
12 in your department. That program has been highly
13 successful. What does it do? It fills the gap that a
14 developer or a manufacturer faces when he can't make a
15 project work economically. You can't go into a city,
16 assemble four or five pieces of property, demolish the
17 obsolete building, rebuild the utilities, make it
18 flood free and cleanup the brownfields. It can't be
19 done within the budget of a manufacturer. Somebody
20 has to do it.

21 The state's been stepping up to the
22 table and doing it. To give you some indication of

23 what that costs, a brownfield cleanup averages in
24 Connecticut, in Fairfield County and New Haven County,
25 somewhere between \$250 and \$400,000 an acre. That's

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1 just for the brownfields cleanup. Here's what I'm
2 asking. Take the Department of Economic and Community
3 Development's municipal development program, expand
4 it, enlarge it, get more staff so that you can begin
5 to provide more opportunities for manufacturers and
6 other economic development agents in the state to
7 expand their operations. Most of the sites that we
8 have seen created in the last years are gone. We have
9 no land available. In fact, as soon as the word gets
10 out that DECD's involved in helping to cleanup a site,
11 somebody buys it or commits to it.

12 We need more. We haven't got enough
13 so, please, let's get on the economic development
14 issue on job training. Let's get on the municipal
15 development program. Let's expand it. Let's make the
16 opportunity there for the manufacturers that are here,
17 and those that may come in that are healthy and will
18 stay here. Thank you.

19 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir.
20 Louis D'Amato.

21 MR. D'AMATO: My name is Louis
22 D'Amato, and I'm with D'Amato Brothers Builders. I've
23 been in business for 48 years. I'm not trying to
24 boast, but I'm trying tell you my position here. I

25 have a million and a half square feet of industrial

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1 space. I provide space for the incubator business,
2 800 square feet to 10,000 square feet, okay, and I
3 take exception to the fact that you say that
4 manufacturing is machine shop manufacturing.

5 Well, about 20 or 30 percent of my
6 buildings were machine shops. I'm down to 10 percent.
7 I don't know where they went, but they're gone.
8 Nobody hit the basic problem here. The basic problem
9 is that the people in the State of Connecticut don't
10 want any growth. They don't want any development.
11 You go to the zoning board and they throw you out.
12 It's like -- they are elected or put in that position
13 so that there is no growth.

14 Affordable housing, you can have all
15 the affordable housing you want, but you can't get it
16 past the commissions. You go to court -- I went six
17 times. When it first came out, I got one affordable
18 housing project, and Tony Resigno, he was here before,
19 I had 200 acres in his town. He led the charge and
20 made a park out of it. I mean, does that make sense?
21 That doesn't make sense. And the caliber of the
22 people working for the state, it's like an obstacle
23 course trying to get a permit out of the state. I
24 mean, it's absolutely disgusting.

25 I happen to be a demolition

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1 contractor. I'm 71 years old. I'm trying to pass it
2 onto my son who is a graduate engineer. I go up to
3 the state, and they say he's not qualified. I said
4 he's been working with me for 15 years. What are you
5 talking about? We take down buildings. You know
6 what? They thought a demolition contractor was a guy
7 who took down porches and did remodeling. I says wait
8 a minute, wait a minute. So finally we went to a
9 referee and the referee said, well, if this guy's not
10 qualified, nobody's qualified. I finally got it from
11 the state, but, I mean, is that the way to run a
12 business? I mean, that's ridiculous right.

13 Listen, you got to go in, and you
14 got to straighten these local zoning boards out,
15 because they control -- they control the growth in
16 this state, and they control what goes in each town.
17 That's your real problem and you got to go in and
18 educate these building officials who take these
19 building requirements, and they twist them around.
20 You got to go get a code enforcement officer to
21 correct what they think is right. I mean, I've done
22 that a number of times.

23 I have probably some 3,000 people
24 working in the various buildings that I own from here
25 all the way to Rhode Island. By the way, in Rhode

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1 Island I have a motor vehicle that doesn't even pay
2 the rent. That's how bad they are in Rhode Island.
3 That's a real joke, but anyway, I just can't get a
4 permit for people. I had a fella who was in the third
5 phase FDA approval, he is my tenant, for a cure for
6 cancer, and, I mean, a legitimate cure. This guy has
7 a product that the federal government already gave him
8 \$2 million to work on, and he's down in New York in
9 one of the hospitals down there running that blind
10 study between things, right? Do you think I could get
11 a factory built for him? It was like a nightmare
12 between the fire marshall, the building inspector, the
13 zoning board. It just went on forever.

14 You got to straighten out the
15 basics. Forget -- listen, in New York City you got
16 traffic up the gazoo, but they do a lot of business,
17 don't they? Forget that. Just get some housing in
18 here. Get some people who will give us some permits
19 to build. That is the answer to the problem here, the
20 real answer to the problem, and you got to get down to
21 the grassroots of the problem, and then you got to get
22 rid of that real gem in the state and that's
23 Blumenthal. That guy scares me up and down. I mean,
24 that guys a real gem. He's out there ready to sue
25 everybody, make a big scene out of minor things, you

1 know. If you can correct this and -- listen.

2 I got a million stories, but while I
3 was building those industrial buildings, I also build
4 3,000 houses to go with it so I know something about
5 affordable housing.

6 MS. McDONALD: Yep.

7 MR. D'AMATO: Thank you. Listen, let
8 me tell you something else. I was on that boat tour
9 with -- I don't know if he was on the boat with me.

10 MS. McDONALD: The site selector.

11 MR. D'AMATO: Yes. You know what
12 those people asked me? They found out I was a
13 builder. They said can you get a permit in this
14 state? I had to dummy up. I felt like saying you
15 can't get a permit in this state. What's the use of
16 coming? They're not coming here. They're not coming
17 here. Take my word for it.

18 MR. McMILLEN: David Roy.

19 MR. ROY: Howdy. My name's David
20 Roy, member of the Winchester Citizens Ad Hoc
21 Committee, and this is an appeal to the State of
22 Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community
23 Development to adopt a strategic goal in securing
24 manufacturing employment in the empty state-of-the-art
25 Winchester Sporting Arms facility in Division Street

1 in New Haven. The plant was built in the 1990s by
2 Herstal, the Belgium-based owner of US Repeating Arms
3 with the support of city and state. It designed a
4 modern manufacturing building.

5 For 140 years Winchester Sporting
6 Arms were produced here until the doors were closed in
7 March 31, 2006. Nearly every household in the
8 Newhallville community had some family member who
9 worked at the Winchester factory. The factory also
10 provided employment for the Greater New Haven area.
11 When the plant closed, 186 workers lost their
12 livelihood, and a largely African-American-involved
13 neighborhood lost its economic anchor. An empty
14 modern plant sits in the middle of a neighborhood with
15 skilled workers in need of a job.

16 The resolution to this situation
17 should be a top goal with involvement of the community
18 in the process. The New Haven Department of Economic
19 Development indicates that they have been working hard
20 to find a new user for the site. We believe that the
21 resources of the state are necessary for the purpose
22 of this project.

23 We urge an aggressive effort to
24 launch an outreach program to potential companies.
25 This should include a well-defined incentive package

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1 from the state to maximize the efforts to attract a

2 manufacturing firm to the site. A general commitment
3 by the state to assist, if needed, is insufficient.
4 The Winchester site is a great opportunity to
5 establish a model for attracting manufacturing jobs to
6 cities and urban areas.

7 As a strategic goal, we in
8 Connecticut cannot give up on manufacturing as an
9 essential part of our economy. Here in New Haven we
10 will not give up on a need for good manufacturing jobs
11 especially when there is a well-equipped facility
12 waiting to be put to use. We also urge that the
13 unique history of the factory be taken under
14 consideration, and the former Winchester workers
15 should have first option to apply for jobs with the
16 priority also given to residents in the surrounding
17 neighborhoods.

18 As a result of getting assistance to
19 build a new plant, the company signed an agreement
20 with the City of New Haven in exchange for tax
21 abatement. It became -- it would retain and grow
22 jobs. Anyway, I used to work there 22 years. I'm
23 getting retrained now through this federal program,
24 and I just hope to get a job that pays as well as
25 Winchester. I hope I get to work with some nice

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1 people like that, and I wish Winchester could come
2 back.

3 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Frank
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4 Panzarella.

5 MR. PANZARELLA: Hello. My name is
6 Frank Panzarella, and I am a member of Fight the Hike
7 fighting for clean energy and for cheaper energy, and
8 a comprehensive plan in the State of Connecticut, but
9 I also want to ditto everything that the man who was
10 here before me said, because I was a former machinist
11 myself, president of a machinist local, and I lost two
12 jobs, two of those manufacturing jobs that are so
13 great that are supposedly here in Connecticut, and I
14 definitely understand that thousands of manufacturing
15 jobs have left the State of Connecticut.

16 A lot of those companies have taken
17 the money and run. Many of those companies got
18 millions of dollars worth of tax abatements. So if
19 you're going to talk about development and not talk
20 about some responsibility for companies like the one
21 that left at Winchester who took a lot of money and
22 didn't live up to their rule, you know, the same thing
23 has to be considered when you are talking about new
24 companies. And if you're going to give money, our
25 money to these companies, then get something back for

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1 it like lasting commitments to stay here and not
2 runaway.

3 But what I really came here to talk
4 about, in addition to that, was the highest electric

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5 rates in the country. CT NOW has officially the
6 highest rates on the continent. I saw a brochure,
7 their economic development from Northeast Utilities,
8 putting out what a glowing picture of how great it is
9 in Connecticut, but we are in a crisis right now.
10 Mortgage rates have gone -- what's -- have you seen
11 the rates of foreclosures? They are phenomenal; in
12 the hundreds of percents.

13 If we don't take steps to look at
14 really what concretely is impoverishing the people of
15 Connecticut -- the number one unit of Connecticut is
16 our people. If we don't help our people survive by
17 bringing in manufacturing companies and making the
18 environment safe for them but not making it safe for
19 the consumer is a joke, because if people can't live
20 here, you're not going to have anybody to work in
21 those factories.

22 The number one unit is the people,
23 and in order to do that, we really need to look at the
24 re-regulation of the energy industry, seriously look
25 at ways -- and I don't mean, you know, it happens all

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1 overnight. Naturally re-regulation is a process that
2 may take some time, but we have to do it as fast as
3 possible, and we need to bring immediate rate relief
4 to the consumers that are losing their homes to the
5 small businesses. I mean, I've spoken with hundreds
6 of small businesses. Our organization, not me

7 personally, but our organization has gone out in many
8 towns and spoken with small businesses to say I'm
9 closing, because I can't pay, you know, \$4,000 a month
10 for electricity to run --

11 I just have a couple more notes. We
12 have to develop clean energy. Our legislature passed
13 a Bill that did not include nearly a penny for the
14 development of clean energy in the State of
15 Connecticut and alternative energy while they've given
16 hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize the same
17 oil and gas companies who we know are going to get
18 more expensive. Hello. What's going to happen? Do
19 you think those companies are going to get cheaper,
20 gas and oil? We have got to fund a significant
21 percentage of clean energy. You know, we have to set
22 concrete goals like 25 percent by 2010, something that
23 is dramatic, and that requires a significant
24 investment in clean energy technologies.

25 There's dozens of companies out

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1 there chomping at the bit to come into Connecticut,
2 and who would love to do that work. I know personally
3 of a solar power installer who had to go to New Jersey
4 for years to work, because he couldn't work under the
5 onerous conditions in Connecticut in order to bring
6 clean energy. So I'm just saying altogether we have
7 to come up with a plan that really subsidizes clean

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8 energy, that really puts the emphasis on developing
9 clean energy and re-regulating the energy industry.
10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. I want to
12 point out that while incentive Bill 1260 was defeated,
13 \$5 million was allocated to build a bio diesel
14 industry in the State of Connecticut, and that money
15 is now flowing to bio diesel producers to build up
16 that industry which will use Connecticut grown and US
17 grown soy oil and canola oil to produce bio diesel. I
18 burn bio diesel in my house.

19 MR. PANZARELLA: I think there are
20 some technical questions about that in terms of how
21 bio diesel fuel is, you know, how much energy it
22 actually consumes in order to be produced. Those are
23 other issues but, I do agree there are a lot of
24 different alternative energy methods that can be used
25 and need to be developed.

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1 MR. McMILLEN: The other thing I
2 would encourage people to do is to support the
3 Governor's energy vision. In September, 2006 she came
4 out with an energy vision which gets at a lot of the
5 stuff you are talking about. If we got behind that
6 energy vision, and pushed the legislature to pass its
7 centers for both the supply side and the demand side,
8 you'd see an alternative energy industry grow in this
9 state pretty quickly.

10 MR. PANZARELLA: Well, I think
11 that's a great idea, but I think nobody in this last
12 legislature, including the Governor, spoke out and
13 actually said we need to invest hundreds of millions
14 of dollars in alternative energy now. Nobody said
15 that and we argued with everybody and we went up to
16 the legislature and we're really treated very
17 shabbily. We barely got our 3 minutes in, and they
18 were ready to have us leave in a hurry.

19 Meanwhile, they would have energy
20 lobbyists there who they would give their testimony,
21 and take 20 or 30 minutes or an hour of questions in
22 order to allow them long term. They did not respect
23 the public in the process in the last legislature, and
24 the Bill that they came up with finally was the
25 weakest energy Bill I could imagine, 7432. It was a

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1 terrible Bill. It did nothing to put the state in
2 command of the buying process. As long as we are
3 subject to brokerage firms and third parties and a
4 process that is totally not transparent, how could we
5 possibly expect to have a decent price for our energy.
6 I mean, you'd laugh at me if I tried to buy a used car
7 that way.

8 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Barry
9 Kasden.

10 MR. KASDEN: Thank you for giving me

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11 the opportunity to -- thank you for giving me the
12 opportunity to present here this evening. I'll
13 summarize. I've submitted my written statement. I'm
14 going to summarize it, and read just a few portions of
15 it to keep it brief, but my name is Barry Kasden. I'm
16 the CEO of a nonprofit organization called Bridges in
17 Milford, and we serve some nine surrounding towns,
18 Milford, Orange, West Haven, and the surrounding
19 communities, and provide a broad range of mental
20 health and addiction services to over 5,000 people a
21 year. So I'm here talking from that perspective.

22 I'm also here representing the
23 Connecticut Community Provider Association, which is a
24 broad based trade association in Connecticut
25 representing hundreds of nonprofit organizations that

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1 deliver in every town in every city and town in
2 Connecticut, community-based services for people with
3 mental health addictions, disabilities, rehabilitative
4 services, adults and children. In Connecticut over
5 500,000 individuals are served by these nonprofit
6 agencies so what does this have to do with economic
7 development? We are heavily funded by the State of
8 Connecticut, and unfortunately here in Connecticut the
9 funding for our agency and the grants that we receive
10 have literally been strangled over the last 20 years.

11 To give you an example from my
12 agency, over 84 percent of our funds come from the

13 State of Connecticut in the form of grants. The
14 average cost of living increase on the grants and rate
15 increase has averaged under 2 percent a year. There
16 are a few businesses in Connecticut that could stay in
17 business with that type of funding, and what is
18 happening as a result of that is the services are
19 being cut, and some of the agencies will probably be
20 going out of business or reducing services even more.
21 The end result is we have long waiting lists. The end
22 result is that people who cannot get services end up
23 in emergency rooms of hospitals and occupy hospital
24 beds. This is not cost-effective.

25 The costs for providing

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1 community-based services is far less. The economic
2 impact on the state's budget is dramatic, and it is
3 puzzling to us as providers why the state would want
4 to continue funding high cost services when by funding
5 less costly but more efficient services in the
6 community you could dramatically reduce costs, and
7 I'll give you a little information on that.

8 The fact is that one out of four
9 individuals and families here in Connecticut and
10 nationally, you know, are dealing with mental health
11 and addiction problems, okay? Another point in fact
12 is that approximately 90 percent of adults with
13 addictive disorders and 72 percent of individuals with

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14 mental illness do work. Begin to consider now the
15 economic impact when people do not receive services,
16 absenteeism, loss of productivity, children not
17 attending school, people placed out of the community,
18 out of the state. The costs are astronomical.

19 Our industry is asking for, and I
20 won't give the details here, because it's in my
21 testimony, a significant infusion of dollars from the
22 Governor and the legislature this year to help sustain
23 the services over the next year, and put in place a
24 commission to do some really sensible planning of how
25 you fund and sustain nonprofit agencies such as ours.

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1 I'll close by just quoting from Jim
2 Purcell, who is the CEO of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of
3 Rhode Island who gave this analysis. The costs of
4 untreated mental illness and addictive disorders are
5 expensive and wide ranging in the US. Loss of
6 productivity for mental illness is estimated at \$63
7 billion, and mental illness is the second leading
8 cause of absenteeism at the workplace. The estimated
9 costs of alcohol and drug problems to businesses in
10 America is \$197 million. Alcohol and drug treatment
11 is a cost-effective means of achieving social and
12 physical goals including health care cost containment,
13 restoration of health, restoration of families,
14 prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome, reduction in
15 death, and on the highways, workplace, savings,

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16 reduction in drug trafficking, theft, other crimes,
17 etc.

18 Every dollar spent on treatment
19 saves state taxpayers \$7 in future costs, and we would
20 ask you, as you look to economic development and
21 planning for Connecticut's future, that we maintain
22 that by sensible and proper investments now to sustain
23 the systems, that you will save significant dollars
24 down the road, and I'll close with just one additional
25 cost sort of example. As a result of us not being

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1 able to see people in a timely way, some of them do
2 end up in emergency rooms and in hospitals, okay? The
3 cost for an emergency room bed, so to speak, if we can
4 rephrase it that way, a hospital bed, combine those
5 two together, the longer the stay is in the emergency
6 room, the more likely they will occupy a hospital bed.

7 The cost for a year for a slot in an
8 emergency room at a hospital is in excess of \$300,000.
9 \$300,000 all right? We could serve hundreds of
10 individuals at that cost in Milford alone and West
11 Haven, Orange, and assure that we would reduce the
12 need for one person to occupy those slots in an
13 emergency room and a hospital bed. The economics
14 don't make sense in terms of how Connecticut is
15 spending its money now and how it is forcing itself to
16 continue funding high cost emergency crisis services

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17 which unfortunately now are needed. But if we invest
18 sensibly now, we can begin reducing those costs. Keep
19 in mind for every dollar spent there's \$7 savings in
20 future costs.

21 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir.

22 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

23 MR. McMILLEN: Robin Swartout.

24 MS. SWARTOUT: Hi. My name is Robin
25 Swartout, and I'm currently serving as an architecture

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1 and development associate on a major mixed use project
2 in downtown New Haven, and I wanted to comment today
3 about the potential of programs like the urban
4 reinvestment tax credit to increase economic growth in
5 our state by first targeting transit-oriented
6 residential development; and, second, development in
7 all regions of the state not just Fairfield County.

8 The potential benefits of
9 transit-oriented development should be clear to anyone
10 who has driven along I-95 in southwestern Connecticut.
11 The state has attempted to remedy this problem by
12 implementing several funding programs that have the
13 effect of promoting transit-oriented development.
14 These and other economic development programs have had
15 several important successes such as the UBS
16 Corporation in Stamford.

17 UBS in particular is located near a
18 train station with Metro-North and Amtrack service,

20 residential growth that helps the state, and
21 encourages greater utilization of the impressive
22 public transportation network in the southwestern
23 region of the state.

24 I strongly urge you to promote
25 responsible and sustainable development by supporting

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1 mixed use residential projects in the struggling
2 cities like New Haven that need the support. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Ken
5 Dugan.

6 MR. DUGAN: I apologize, I have
7 nothing prepared but that's okay. My name is Ken
8 Dugan. I am the current president of the New Haven
9 Manufacturers Association. I'm also the owner of
10 Prestige Tool Manufacturing in Milford. We are a C
11 and C machining job shop. I started the business
12 myself. I have been in business for almost 25 years
13 now.

14 For approximately the first 19 years
15 of that time I experienced in the business tremendous
16 growth sales, sometimes from one year to the next 75
17 percent or so. The last -- I would say the last five
18 years or so probably have been the most difficult that
19 I have gone through. I have gone from a workforce of
20 approximately 12 to 15 people down to six.

21 The straw that's breaking the
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22 camel's back for me right now is the energy costs.
23 This deregulation program is a total bust. I don't
24 know how it was developed, where it came from, but it
25 really needs to be addressed. My electricity bills

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1 have doubled in a state that's already expensive to do
2 business with. Health insurance costs have had double
3 digits for more years than I can count. The
4 electricity is, again, the one that's really killing
5 me.

6 The statistics of manufacturing have
7 been already said. I don't need to repeat them. It's
8 a viable service in the state. It attracts and
9 creates more jobs. It just has a snowball effect.
10 One of the things that really upset me is lately the
11 media boasting about the addition of 600 jobs for
12 Cabela's up in East Hartford. I have nothing against
13 any business that moves into Connecticut, but when
14 they talk about 600 jobs that really don't require
15 much training at all, I don't mean to insult anybody,
16 but that's working at Cabela's. But for a sector like
17 manufacturing where you have to be educated, you have
18 to have specific training for high-tech positions in a
19 sector that, for the most part, they pay health care,
20 health care costs for the employee, health benefits as
21 far as vacation time, etc., where the nonservice
22 sector usually doesn't do that.

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23 The other thing with the movie
24 industry that has been mentioned once or twice
25 tonight, the people that are coming in are getting

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1 these tremendous tax breaks, but they are not really
2 setting any roots in the state. They're in, they're
3 out and they're gone. Manufacturing people, we're
4 here. We're here every day. We own buildings. We
5 rent buildings, and we're a viable service factor in
6 the State of Connecticut, and we just need as much
7 help as we can get. Thank you.

8 MR. McMILLEN: Matthew Nemerson.

9 MR. NEMERSON: Good evening,
10 Commissioner. I had some slides, but I'm going to
11 skip those. Maybe in Hartford or one of the other
12 road shows I'll get in here earlier. There are a
13 couple of things I want to talk about. My name is
14 Matthew Nemerson. I'm president of the Connecticut
15 Technology Council. We represent about 2,000
16 technology and innovation-based companies around the
17 state. Before that I ran the chamber here, and before
18 that I helped start Science Park with Burt Sacco and
19 other people here in the audience, I'm sure.

20 So I have had a 25-year run in
21 economic development here in the state, and there are
22 a couple things I just want to put on the table. One
23 is that when you look at your little chart here, and
24 you talk about what's needed, one is to talk about

25 scope. To really make a difference here we've got to

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1 talk about the fact that we are a player in the Metro
2 New York area. I've run a chamber. I know how
3 important it is to worry about Meriden, to worry about
4 North Haven, to worry about East Haven, but at the end
5 of the day, from the standpoint of Shanghai or Bangor,
6 we are just sort of New York City a little bit to the
7 east, and it is very important for us to see ourselves
8 in the perspective of being a major player, yes, but
9 within a major area.

10 If we get down into who gets what
11 between our cities and between our towns, we are lost.
12 We've got to compete perhaps with northern New Jersey,
13 but more likely with the Pacific northwest with
14 Austin, with Florida, midstate Florida. These are the
15 areas, the big Metro areas, and we have to be an
16 important part of that. To do that we need a scale,
17 and the scale is going to be billions of dollars. For
18 us to be talking about a few million dollars for this
19 project or that misses the point.

20 We need to back you up to sit there
21 in the meetings at OPM, and to talk about economic
22 development being a serious, serious part of this
23 state; not just something nice to give some earmarks
24 to a few towns to build a playground here or there or
25 complete an exit off a highway. We are talking about

1 billions of dollars. The Governor of New Jersey
2 talking about billions. The Governor Patrick talking
3 about billions just for the high-tech, biotech
4 industry; billions and billions of dollars.

5 I am afraid that we've shortchanged
6 you and your predecessors. We need, all of us at all
7 these hearings, to be saying you need a few billion
8 dollars every year. Perhaps it has to be bonded, but
9 when we are talking about bonding now, we are talking
10 about \$10 and \$20 billion. Wisconsin, Florida, Texas,
11 when they talk about economic development, they talk
12 about tens and tens of billions of dollars to create
13 great universities, to create great centers. More has
14 been spent at Central Florida University than in all
15 of our state campuses combined. We have to get a
16 perspective here.

17 The other thing I think is very
18 important is to talk about the fact that we are not
19 going to change as a high cost area. I love
20 manufacturing. I've built a lot of factories here.
21 I've tried to save a lot of manufacturing jobs, but
22 the future for us is more like northern Europe. We
23 have to look at what's happening in England, what's
24 happening in the Denmark and Norway and Finland. They
25 had great manufacturing there, too. They know that

1 within the EC they can't compete with Greece, with
2 Spain.

3 So what we need to do, and I'll wrap
4 up by saying, is think about innovation, think about
5 jobs that are going to be based on education, and make
6 sure that we either have the education system here or
7 that we have a life-style, a housing sense that people
8 move here with those educations. We have to give you
9 the ability of a systems approach. We have too many
10 individual projects, too many tech councils, too many
11 bio counsels, you know, 125 chambers. If we had
12 three, it would be enough. You can't actually make
13 that happen, but you've got to figure out a way to
14 modulate all that so that everyone is on one team; not
15 everybody trying to get a little piece of the pie.

16 And, finally, it's about acting
17 globally. We take great pride in being local, but the
18 reality is we built the first interstate railroad
19 system. That cost billions of dollars in 1845
20 dollars. We built the first turnpike or one of the
21 first turnpikes. That cost billions of dollars. We
22 were thinking always about getting to New York,
23 getting to Boston. We need to make sure that we are
24 positioned so that when people look at America, they
25 think of us as the Singapore of America. They think

1 of us as the Finland of America with the best school
2 system, best opportunities.

3 We are a global spot. We're small
4 enough. We are only 3 million people. We are not
5 going to be five or six or seven. We are not growing.
6 We can compete with other areas, other sovereign areas
7 like Singapore and Finland that are also 3 million and
8 they are competing, and our companies are talking
9 about them as if they are whole systems. It's going
10 to take a systems approach to do that. Thank you.

11 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Elizabeth
12 Verner.

13 MS. VERNER: Hi. My name is
14 Elizabeth Verner. I am a builder and developer in New
15 Haven County. I'm also the chairwoman of Government
16 Affairs for the HBA of Connecticut, and I'm speaking
17 as a for-profit builder, and I would like to address
18 housing, and the lack of affordable housing for the
19 residents and workers of this state.

20 The economy of Connecticut is being
21 threatened by the lack of affordable housing for
22 working families and individuals. For-profit builders
23 want to build homes and communities. Connecticut's
24 housing production is at an all time low primarily due
25 to the difficult land use process that we developers

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1 face every day. I, also, have a thousand stories like
2 my colleague, Lou D'Amato, but I won't get into some
3 of those horror stories.

4 Additional costs, because of over
5 regulation, directly impact the cost of housing.
6 Delays in the approval process, the lack of density
7 allowed increase the cost of housing. We are looking
8 for help and relief with local agencies as well as
9 state agencies. There needs to be consistency at the
10 local level, and help at the state level with the many
11 difficulties in the permitting process. Planning and
12 Zoning, Wetlands, DEP, STC, high residential
13 densities, lower per unit cost for developers
14 therefore creating private, non-subsidized, affordable
15 workforce housing for this state.

16 This can be done responsibly,
17 balanced while protecting the environment and the
18 communities in which we build. I just want to remind
19 everyone that homes are where Connecticut jobs go at
20 night.

21 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Bob
22 Wi edenmann.

23 MR. WI EDENMANN: Good evening. Bob
24 Wi edenmann from Sunwood Development Corp. I am a
25 bui lder and develo per out of Wallingford and also a

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1 member of the Home Builders Association. I would like

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2 to speak a little bit about some of the regulatory
3 problems that we face on a daily basis here in
4 Connecticut. The problems are with planning, zoning,
5 subdivisions, wetlands laws that just make it
6 extremely difficult for us to proceed through the land
7 use process. Without some sort of certainty in the
8 process, economic growth and development will continue
9 to be a struggle, and make a hardship for this state
10 well into the future.

11 Many of these necessary or relief
12 problems come at the local levels, as mentioned
13 earlier, but there are certainly state agencies that
14 are involved in some of the issues. We deal with DEP
15 on storm water and endangered species issues,
16 Department of Transportation. The approval process
17 for some basic site plans can take months and months,
18 just unreasonably long term.

19 There's also a recent problem that's
20 come about particularly Public Health, and that has to
21 do with the misuse of state plan of conservation
22 development. There's a location guidance map that has
23 required us to not be able to get certain projects
24 approved because of sewer moratoriums or extensions
25 into areas that they deem incompatible with the state

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1 plan, totally unauthorized, not proper, but that's how
2 they are interpreting the regulations.

3 One thing I want to point out while
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4 I've got an audience here is that the State of
5 Connecticut is over 80 percent raw land. Only 20
6 percent of the entire state is developed. 3.5 million
7 acres is still undeveloped in the state. That's a
8 fact that you can find from the University of
9 Connecticut. Also, agricultural land since 1992 has
10 actually increased in this last 15 years or so.
11 Development is taking place, as you would expect,
12 along the transportation corridors, exactly how smart
13 growth advocates would propose it to happen. So a lot
14 of conversation about smart growth not taking place as
15 anticipated or referred is totally incorrect.

16 There is a lot of misinformation out
17 there. How to do production at all is at an all time
18 low. That's mostly due to land use problems we face
19 on a daily basis. It's driving away our young
20 workers. It's hurting business expansion, and these
21 are issues that need to be addressed. If we are going
22 to compete with other parts of the state, excuse me,
23 other parts of the country and even foreign countries,
24 we need to get government out of our way so we can do
25 our job. That is my recommendation, quite honestly,

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1 to you is we don't need more funding. We can do a
2 for-profit builders. We'll step up and take care of
3 things if government would get out of our way and let
4 us do that.

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5 I'm going to wrap up with that. I
6 think that's really the best thing I can say. I would
7 mention my friend Lou D'Amato put him in charge. He
8 won't make a lot of friends, but he gets stuff done.
9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. McMILLEN: Bill Neale.

11 MR. NEALE: I'm Bill Neale. I'm the
12 vice president of operations of Radi all -AEP. I'm also
13 on the Westbrook, Connecticut Planning Commission so I
14 sit on the land use board. I am on the Connecticut
15 River Estuary Planning Agency. Radi all -AEP employs
16 about 300 people in the Fair Haven part of New Haven.
17 Over the past couple years we have added approximately
18 125 entry level jobs in Fair Haven. Many of our
19 higher paid people started out that way and moved up.

20 I have two pretty modest proposals
21 that would affect Radi all -AEP's ability to thrive in
22 the Fair Haven neighborhood. The first is the state
23 and local social service entities that serve our
24 employees work from about 9:30 in the morning to 3 in
25 the afternoon. Our employees have to leave work to

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1 see parole officers, housing help, child advocates,
2 all this stuff. They have to say, boss, I got a take
3 time off from work to use these services that are
4 trying to get me to go to work.

5 You know, let those offices be open
6 from 5 to 8 o'clock at night, and visit people at

7 those hours. That would allow those workers to become
8 a better part of our company, and we're willing to
9 take all of them if they make the effort. We're not
10 asking for any money to do that. We're just asking
11 for the offices to work a different hour so the people
12 can become positive employees.

13 The second one is another
14 transportation thing. It's really the last mile. I
15 would be happy to take Shoreline East, walk with my
16 tie on and my laptop right up Grand Avenue no problem.
17 The shuttles are great for Yale and the attorneys, but
18 they're not helping -- we have four, five people that
19 would take Shoreline East and it's really not -- I
20 mean, I wouldn't be a responsible dad if I did that.
21 Those are my two, the last mile and getting the state
22 agencies that help the lower level employees to work
23 at night. Thank you.

24 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir.
25 Reverend Bonita Grubbs.

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1 REV. GRUBBS: It's my bad
2 handwriting. My name is Reverend Bonita Grubbs. I am
3 the director of the social service organization in New
4 Haven, and I'm here really because I think that what
5 you're trying to do is laudable. I wanted to -- I
6 think I'm okay right now. I'll try for the moment.
7 I'm pleased to share my thoughts this evening with the

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8 Department, because I think this is really important,
9 what you're trying to do, and I think it's been too
10 long for the individuals we serve, the Christian
11 Community Action; that there really have not been a
12 lot of opportunities to move out of poverty, and
13 that's an important thing for me.

14 Some people say that a rising tide
15 lifts all boats. Well, I haven't seen it in my world,
16 and so a part of the reason that I'm here is to make
17 sure that if there is a tide, if there is a new
18 initiative, that it really does lift those individuals
19 that we deal with every day.

20 Contrary to popular belief most of
21 the folks that we deal with in our shelter and
22 transitional housing program are really people who
23 work. They are in-service sector jobs. They are
24 part-time employment, and they have difficulty every
25 day trying to make ends meet. No. 1, they can't

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1 afford the housing that is in this city, and No. 2,
2 they don't have the income that allows them to be able
3 to find a rent that they can afford. So I would
4 really say that if there's anything that you can
5 singularly do, that it's important to be able to
6 restore some of the housing initiatives that have been
7 in years past within --

8 It was the Department of Housing to
9 really provide that kind of housing for individuals so

10 that the individuals that we deal with are fewer as
11 opposed to greater. We turn away about 40 families a
12 month who are seeking emergency housing, and they just
13 have absolutely no place to go. They are doubled up
14 in apartments, and that really does create, I think, a
15 high degree of stress for the family system.

16 So I really would like to see some
17 of the strong initiatives in the area of housing. I
18 also would like to see some sort of economically-based
19 sort of incentives for individuals who are working.
20 The earned income tax credit is one of those things
21 that really has been on the docket. It's not been
22 passed. It's gotten a little bit further with each
23 passing year, but we really need to provide some
24 economic incentives for the individuals like the folks
25 we deal with.

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1 I know that there is a Poverty and
2 Prevention Council, and there is also an initiative
3 that is in place that by 2014 that poverty would be
4 reduced by 50 percent. We have a long way to go. We
5 haven't done as much as has been necessary, and, quite
6 frankly, I think the way to solve the poverty problem
7 is to go upstream in the area of housing, in the area
8 of job training, in the area of economic incentives to
9 provide the kinds of opportunities that the
10 individuals like we deal with every day can really

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11 move, and they don't have to use the services that we
12 provide. So I would really encourage you to be able
13 to do that.

14 One last thing, and that is about in
15 our world we are not quite a 24/7 organization, but we
16 do try to support the employment opportunities and
17 what people are trying to do to move ahead. So unlike
18 some organizations, we actually do work in the
19 evenings. That's why I'm here. Thank you.

20 MR. McMILLEN: David Lis.

21 MR. LIS: Good evening. Thank you
22 for hearing my comments. My name is David Lis, and
23 I'm an environmental professional. I do quite a bit
24 of work in the New Haven-Bridgeport corridor along 95.
25 What I wanted to really kind of just talk briefly

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1 about was the transportation not five years, not 10
2 years, but 20 years down the road. I think all of us
3 who drive on 95 route 1 do business, bring our
4 children to school, see how difficult it is, and I
5 think in the long run it can only get worse unless we
6 take bold, not short-term action but long term action.

7 I want to use an analogy. It's
8 probably not a perfect one, but it really came to mind
9 when we were here talking, and everyone brought to the
10 table some great ideas and concepts, education. To me
11 Connecticut is the body, a healthy body of future
12 growth. The brain is education, you know,

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13 manufacturing are the arms. Trade are the legs. You
14 know, the heart is the communities, is our
15 neighborhoods. What I see is that the transportation
16 system is really the circulatory system. I hope I
17 have that right. I'm not sure I paid attention to my
18 daughter's ninth grade bio class, but I think that's
19 really a key, a cornerstone of future, you know,
20 health, healthy state, sustainable state and a growing
21 state. In particular, what I see in my business is
22 the importance or the future importance of ports and
23 rails.

24 Rail and ports will reduce traffic
25 on our highways, reduce pollution, will reduce energy

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1 needs, energy consumption, but I think we're at a
2 critical mass in particular with ports. Ports are
3 sitting up. Businesses are going elsewhere. The
4 permitting process is timely, excuse me, is long. It
5 needs to be streamlined. There needs to be funding
6 mechanisms.

7 Someone here mentioned tonight the
8 Bridgeport harbor. There was a particular business
9 there that I'm somewhat familiar with that's bringing
10 in significant tax dollars, revenues, and employment
11 to the state. That's a success. I would like to see
12 that in the New Haven area, you know, basically
13 preserve our working ports, working rail. Also public

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14 transportation is obviously a key component.

15 A gentleman mentioned here, you
16 know, you can't get a parking ticket for three years
17 or so. So I guess what I'm saying is that I would
18 urge the state to think boldly and in the long term
19 with regards to transportation. It is critical to the
20 viability of the state from our communities to
21 economic growth. Thank you.

22 MS. McDONALD: Thank you.

23 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Arven
24 Saunders.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you for being

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1 here, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to
2 give some input. I'm an engineer by trade, and I've
3 worked most of my professional life in manufacturing
4 development, so I understand that manufacturing is one
5 of the few key generators of revenue. I was born in
6 Connecticut, but only the last five years have I lived
7 here, and between then and now I've lived in many
8 other areas of the country.

9 The last place that I lived before
10 moving here was in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, and the
11 contrasts are rather large between what I have found
12 in Connecticut, my home state, and what I've seen in
13 many other places like that. So I don't really
14 understand how things are done here, and I'm trying to
15 post some concerns I have, because I hear so much

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16 about -- I see many facets of the glory days when A.C.
17 Gilbert was a great innovator and manufacturer in New
18 Haven, and I used to play with erector sets that were
19 made here New Haven, Connecticut. To me that's
20 something that seems like by gone era, and I hear
21 about the young people who are leaving the state. I'm
22 very concerned.

23 I just would like to give you the
24 impressions and observations that I'm struck with.
25 First of all, I don't understand where the tax money

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1 is going. I didn't pay state income tax in Texas. I
2 pay a good amount to the State of Connecticut. I
3 don't mind paying it. I don't understand where it's
4 going. Property taxes is not that much different
5 really. I live in Hamden. Awhile back I was
6 interested in some property in New Haven that would
7 have been like a mile away. My property tax would
8 have been double to move into that house of roughly
9 equivalent value. I don't understand what the tax
10 structure is, the laws that govern in the State of
11 Connecticut.

12 When I first moved here in 2001,
13 there was something on Connecticut Public TV, and they
14 were talking about the cities versus the non-cities in
15 Connecticut, and I have an impression that something
16 they said was -- there's a great disparity in state

17 revenues that are given back to cities that tend to
18 have a lot of disparate problems. A lot of people
19 live in the cities. You have primarily the three
20 major cities. You have most of the major problems, it
21 seems, in the cities, but you don't seem to have the
22 support and the quality of life that some of the
23 suburban areas have.

24 As an example, just the things I pay
25 attention to like infrastructure, like roads I drive

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1 on, I come down and -- my wife and I love New Haven.
2 We visit New Haven all the time. We come down south
3 on Whitney Avenue, which was recently paved very nice
4 and smooth, but as soon as we get to the New Haven
5 line, the cultural capital of Connecticut turns into
6 like a third world as far as the road condition. Like
7 I don't understand. Why is this happening?

8 I still have some perception that
9 there's some corruption in the state. I don't know if
10 that's real or if -- it seems like to me that more
11 should be done; not just a guy who is in the
12 legislature who took forever to finally send a message
13 to say we have to raise the bar. Let's get the bar --
14 we have to have some standards here.

15 Anyway, I just -- and certainly the
16 New Haven Airport, I mean, gee, it needs to be
17 expanded. Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, for instance, is
18 such a dynamo for that whole area. I mean, New Haven

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19 is a major city in Connecticut. It doesn't have an
20 airport that's worthy of where it needs to go, and I'm
21 sure that can be said for the other cities, too.

22 Anyway, I guess I'm out of time. Thank you very much.

23 MR. McMILLEN: Yes, you are. Thank
24 you. Thea Buxbaum.

25 MS. BUXBAUM: Good evening. Hi. My

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1 name is Thea Buxbaum, and I live in Westville Village
2 which is in New Haven, Connecticut. I thought when I
3 came here I was going to talk about the fact that I
4 grew up in Brooklyn. I thought Connecticut had
5 beautiful, small New England towns, and as I watch it
6 homogenize, I find that a disappointing thing in my
7 experience.

8 What I really wanted to talk about
9 was the fact I was recently recruited to work -- I
10 work in affordable housing and community economic
11 development and artist housing, and I was recently
12 recruited to work in Massachusetts, and I called a New
13 England funder who funds community economic
14 development, affordable housing, and artist housing.
15 I said listen. I should probably stay in Connecticut.
16 The devil I know is easier than the devil I don't
17 know, because of having so many challenges with
18 layering funding, having funding released to do work
19 that ultimately makes the quality of life and the

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20 quality of the real estate, which is really long term
21 investment like our schools or public buildings, our
22 homes, part of our long term investment.

23 In places I thought it would be
24 easier to stay where I knew how challenging it was to
25 work, and DECD and CHFA and many of the other agencies

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1 have a very uncollaborative way of working with our
2 local townships and munis -- the gentleman who was
3 here who had all this real estate development space
4 and millions of square feet really hit the nail on the
5 head when he talked about towns not working. So this
6 guy said, you know -- I want to just tell you he works
7 out of Boston -- that Connecticut is considered one of
8 the most regressive states in the country in terms of
9 expediting processes of layering public and private
10 investment dollars.

11 So from the time you begin to submit
12 an application to the time that funding actually hits
13 the streets, the artist housing projects I am doing in
14 Westville almost lost a huge portion of its private
15 funding, because DECD took 2 years to be able to come
16 through the paper trail. A couple of years ago was
17 the first time that the Housing Trust Fund was
18 introduced in the State of Connecticut, it is a
19 brilliant idea. Critical money, gap funding for
20 affordable housing development, we were going to get
21 it into the streets, out on the streets quickly. We

22 had to produce applications. We are talking about
23 becoming more green. They were this thick, seven of
24 them. They got thrown out. I don't know how many
25 other agencies chose not to apply, because it was so

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1 chal l engi ng.

2 This is not an indictment of the
3 amazing work that you actually are able to do and are
4 able to accomplish, because there's a lot of that.
5 What it really comes down to is that the proposal I
6 had really needed -- Massachusetts had a pre-approval
7 from their state economic development office, from the
8 town in which they were trying to do the development,
9 and from the neighborhood committee, the equivalent of
10 our block watches, and other committees.

11 From those places where everybody
12 ends up being in contentious positions around a table,
13 they have a system where they actually work together
14 ahead of time. So rather than taking three years to
15 release funds into a community, they take three years
16 to build a coalition, and I think that's part of what
17 you're doing now. I think it's excellent and I
18 commend you for that.

19 But when you talk about systems
20 working together versus systems working unhealthfully,
21 I think that's something Connecticut is not very good
22 at. I agree with what Matthew Nemerson said, with

23 what so many of my other colleagues said, and I think
24 that it can be done a lot better. By the way,
25 everybody should visit westvillect.org, and if you

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1 don't live there, we'll find you a house.

2 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Martin
3 Mador.

4 MR. MADOR: I'm Martin Mador. I'm
5 the state legislative chair for the Connecticut Sierra
6 Club so in a way I'm here representing our 10,000
7 members, so we're pleased to have you here in
8 Connecticut with us. I'm going to take the first
9 minute to talk about green buildings. I'm lead
10 certified and I am a green building expert.

11 I think a strategic plan certainly
12 needs to provide incentives for green buildings in the
13 state. Connecticut's really last. We're rated very
14 low in the number of green buildings we have. There
15 are all sorts of advantages to green buildings, one of
16 them of course being very low energy consumption.

17 The corporate world has caught on
18 very slowly to the advantages of green buildings. The
19 state is doing it. We are now requiring all schools
20 built starting next year to be built green. That's
21 legislation I wrote, but the corporate world has not
22 caught onto this. We need the state to provide
23 incentives for green buildings. We need tax credits
24 to do more green buildings which is going to help the

25 economic position of our corporate world.

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1 Now, I want to take the next 2
2 minutes to talk about another issue which really links
3 our economic health, our quality of life and our
4 environment, and that issue is property tax reform.
5 That's one of the chief legislative agenda items for
6 the Connecticut Sierra Club. Even though it's
7 perceived primarily as an economic issue, it really is
8 also an environmental one. Connecticut's reliance on
9 property taxes is archaic. It drives the towns to
10 compete with each other, to grow their land lists. So
11 it drives us to make very bad and very destructive
12 land use decisions. It compromises funding for
13 education, and the quality of education is directly
14 linked to the quality of our workforce.

15 So we have implications here for the
16 state of our education; the fact that we force our
17 towns to rely so much on property taxes for their
18 operating money. We need to finish the process that
19 was started in the early 1990s when the state imposed
20 an income tax. One of the purposes was that income
21 tax was to provide a vehicle whereby we could start
22 weaning ourselves off of the property tax.

23 Unfortunately, that got derailed.
24 We ended up with a governor who didn't understand
25 this, and the process came to a halt so we didn't

1 complete that. We got the income tax, but we did not
2 get the property tax reform we so desperately needed.
3 Reliance on property tax inhibits smart growth
4 strategies. It inhibits regional cooperation, and
5 means that the growth that we're going to have is not
6 going to be as effective as it could be if we didn't
7 have such reliance on property taxes. The property
8 taxes are not directly correlated with the ability to
9 pay, so we end up driving people from their homes, and
10 there are documented cases of this where the property
11 tax, especially for houses on the shoreline, have
12 gotten so high that people have actually had to move
13 out of their homes only because of the property taxes.

14 So it has implications for our
15 housing stock as well. It has implications for open
16 space. If the towns are driven to maximize the
17 economic return on the property in town, they are not
18 going to want to use that property for open space.
19 Open space is linked with quality of life, which is
20 linked to the perception of the desirability of a
21 place to live and work.

22 Connecticut is one of the very few
23 states with an enormously heavy reliance on property
24 taxes. It is essential, it is mandatory that we
25 rebalance the tax policy of the state taking into

1 account all of the tax vehicles we have which
2 ultimately are authorized by the state. I think that
3 a strategic plan the DECD comes up with has to call
4 for significant property tax reform. So that there is
5 no mistake about this, the things on the table right
6 now, such as doing away with motor vehicle tax with
7 the 3 percent cap on property taxes, not only do not
8 solve any problems, they make the problem worse. They
9 are suggestions which simply do not go to the problem.

10 What we need is fundamental reform
11 where we raise the income taxes, and we simultaneously
12 lower the property taxes to compensate for that. The
13 leadership has to come from the state to do this. I
14 hope you folks will make this a strong part of this,
15 and help convince the Governor that this is absolutely
16 mandatory for us. Thank you for the opportunity to
17 speak here tonight.

18 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you, sir.
19 Margaret Bauer.

20 MS. BAUER: Good evening. I'm
21 Margaret Bauer. I'm Dean of Research and Development
22 at Gateway Community College, and I wasn't going to
23 speak tonight. But after we were referenced so often
24 by so many of the speakers, I felt that I needed to
25 present a few facts about the college.

1 We did an economic impact study
2 three years ago, and we found out that Gateway
3 Community College contributed more than \$250 million
4 to the Greater New Haven community. We have
5 approximately 95 programs ranging from allied health
6 to water management and also manufacturing. 80
7 percent of our graduates remain in the area and are
8 productive, tax-paying citizens.

9 We continue to and encourage working
10 with many agencies and companies. We've been --
11 recently we've been working with Workforce Alliance,
12 the Regional Growth Partnership, the Chamber. The
13 college needs to be included when there are site
14 visits conducted for companies moving into the area,
15 because we believe that we can provide information on
16 the kinds of skill training that we can offer to those
17 companies.

18 Gateway Community College is a very
19 important part of the economic development engine for
20 the South Central Region, and we also provide hope and
21 opportunities to so many of our citizens who have
22 never considered attending an institution of higher
23 education and getting themselves out of the poverty
24 cycle. Thank you very much for the opportunity to
25 speak here.

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1 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Dale
2 Kroup.

3 MR. KROUP: Anyway, I wasn't really
4 prepared to speak tonight so I have no notes, but two
5 things I wanted to just mention tonight is just to
6 shift gears a little bit. Hamden has its own industry
7 cluster program. I know the state, of course, has
8 one, but, frankly, aerospace has no impact on Hamden,
9 Connecticut. I'm director of economic development for
10 the Town of Hamden, grew up in New Haven, attended
11 this fine university 35 years ago.

12 We focus on our industry clusters.
13 I think the state's program, I am a big believer in
14 it, and the community is a big believer in it. I
15 believe the state has a role to play. I believe the
16 region has a role to play, but I think at the local
17 level we still have to work hard within our own
18 industry clusters. I think that the state could take
19 a look at perhaps how each individual town that's
20 interested in doing this sort of thing could benefit
21 from some kind of a pilot program or way to talk about
22 this.

23 I talked to Ollie Cart before he
24 left DECD about coming up with sort of a pilot program
25 for marketing local industry clusters, whether it's a

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1 Website or technical assistance. I don't think it

2 costs very much money at all. Usually people are
3 pretty passionate about the industry clusters that are
4 successful in their community, and we have lots of
5 ideas to share in that regard, and we are happy to
6 sit-down and talk with whomever replaced Ollie after
7 he went on to Massachusetts. So that's one thing I
8 would like to mention tonight.

9 The second thing is probably
10 repetitive of what other people have talked about,
11 Commissioner, and I have worked with the various
12 incarnations of your agency over 23 years. I have
13 done housing projects. I have done economic
14 development projects, and there are lots of talented
15 and committed people that work at the old DOH, DECD.
16 The problem is that it takes too long for money to get
17 to the market, especially lately. That's hurtful in
18 terms of getting projects completed, because the cost
19 of construction, the cost of everything goes up so
20 rapidly particularly in the last five years.

21 I don't think it makes much
22 difference whether it's an economic development
23 project or housing project, but it takes way too long
24 from the time you start to talk to people about it.
25 Just to use one piece of it, even when you're approved

1 and you get through the state bond commission, if
2 that's where the money is coming from, just to get the
3 assistance agreements done often takes months, and

4 that hurts the project.

5 As Thea was talking about a couple
6 minutes ago, most projects have two, three, four
7 sources of funding. It's very difficult to get things
8 done. You have local planning commission approvals
9 that expire. There's lots of factors that go into a
10 project; not just at the DECD level, but all around it
11 you have your planning and zoning process, so I hope
12 that in the future we look at the market as we approve
13 things. Thank you.

14 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Joel
15 Fisherman.

16 MR. FISHERMAN: Good evening.
17 Actually, this is a letter from Ms. Alfreda Edwards,
18 but she left her glasses home, and so she asked me to
19 present this for her, and it's in the form of a letter
20 to you, Commissioner McDonald.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to
22 listen to the concerns of area residents about the
23 economic health of our community and our state. I am
24 writing this letter to appeal to the State of
25 Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community

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1 Development to adopt a strategic goal in securing
2 manufacturing jobs in this area. This region, and
3 speaking about New Haven, has lost many manufacturing
4 jobs in the recent past the latest of which was the

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5 closing of the US Repeating Arms Company, the
6 Winchester facility.

7 The USRAC building was built in 1994
8 with assistance from the State of Connecticut. This
9 is a modern industrial building that was closed a year
10 and a half ago when the Herstal Company moved the
11 production of the Winchester rifle overseas. This
12 building, having been built with some public
13 financing, should continue to be used for
14 manufacturing, and the state should leverage that
15 initial investment by working with us now to find
16 another user for this building.

17 It is my understanding that the firm
18 of Block & Kahan is marketing the building, and they
19 have looked and are continuing to look for companies
20 to locate at the Winchester site. We are asking if
21 the state has done anything, to assist the City and
22 Block & Kahan in this effort. And if not, what you
23 can do to assist us in creating jobs for those who
24 lost their jobs as well as other area residents.

25 What economic incentives could the

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1 state offer potential manufacturers to come use this
2 facility? Over the years the region has lost a huge
3 number of decent paying manufacturing jobs, Pratt &
4 Whitney, Stop & Shop and Winchester Repeating Arms,
5 which has directly affected residents in the New Haven
6 region. The Dixwell/Newhallville community in New

7 Haven has this beautiful building in the middle of an
8 economically dying area. Filling this plant alone
9 with jobs will bring back economic hope and life to
10 this neighborhood, the City of New Haven, and the
11 State of Connecticut.

12 I am asking as a resident of this
13 area and as an elected official of the City of New
14 Haven for your assistance. Very truly yours, Alfreda
15 Edwards, Alderwoman, Ward 19.

16 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you very much.
17 Those are all the people who signed up to speak. Is
18 there anybody else who would like to speak? Please
19 come forward, sir. State your name.

20 MR. FARBROTHER: Good evening,
21 Commissioner. My name is Dr. Barry Farbrother. I am
22 the Dean of the Tagliatela College of Engineering at
23 the University of New Haven. I am surprised not to
24 see even more members of the academic community here,
25 but I am sure you are aware of the quite severe

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1 shortage of technical talent in this region.

2 I'm a relatively new transplant to
3 this part of the country having moved from the Midwest
4 about 2 years ago, and it wasn't long after I arrived
5 here that I began to receive calls from engineering
6 managers and local corporations asking if I could
7 supply the engineers that they needed. My comments

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8 are not restricted solely to engineers. They apply
9 equally well to scientists as well.

10 There is a severe shortage, and I
11 think since you've asked us to think big, I would like
12 to suggest to you that we really need to think very
13 big in this area. It's a pipeline problem that we
14 have here. It's not solely a university problem.
15 It's not solely an employer problem. It's a problem
16 that requires employers, universities, families and
17 schools to work together.

18 The first thing that we have to do
19 is to articulate to young people, because they don't
20 have many engineering role models. I challenge you to
21 try and think of one. They don't have those role
22 models, and we have actually got to make sure that
23 they get the message when they're in sixth grade. We
24 then need a plan which can incentivize them to
25 consider studying math and science, and you've

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1 probably heard about the report from the Government,
2 from Congress, the Gathering Storm, and the subsequent
3 report from the National Academy of Engineering which
4 calls for a new paradigm for engineering education.

5 So it's a university problem. It's
6 an employer problem. I think the solution has to
7 involve all of those groups. We have to find a
8 mechanism where universities, the corporations that
9 are employing engineers and scientists, where schools

10 and where young people can be part of this discussion.
11 We need to make it attractive, possibly financially
12 attractive, for young people to come and study at the
13 graduate level, undergraduate level and the graduate
14 level.

15 We have a huge problem, which is a
16 really hidden problem inasmuch as I'll articulate it
17 in terms of the enrollment in my graduate programs.
18 It's 90 percent international students. I can't find
19 domestic students to study at the graduate level, and
20 this is an impending problem. There is a long lead
21 time with any solution. If you were to impact a young
22 person in the sixth grade today, it will be 12, 10 to
23 12 years before that person becomes a productive,
24 employable engineer.

25 So I encourage you to think big,

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1 because I think it's going to take significant funding
2 to address this level to make the possibility of
3 Baccalaureate degree qualifications for young people
4 in the area of math and science a possibility, and I
5 thank you very much for the opportunity.

6 MR. McMILLEN: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else who would like to speak? Okay.
8 Commissioner?

9 MS. McDONALD: It's quarter to 8.
10 We close at 8. Anybody else? We can take a break,

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11 but anybody else who wants to speak when they come in
12 may do so.

13 (Whereupon, this deposition was
14 concluded at 7:43.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 I, Jacqueline V. McCauley, a Notary Public
4 duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State
5 of Connecticut, do hereby certify that this hearing
6 was taken by me on January 8, 2008. And affixed my
7 seal this 10th day of April, 2007 at 5:03 p.m.

8
9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand
10 and affixed my self on this 15th day of January, 2008.

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My Commission expires: 5/31/10

Jacqueline V. McCauley
Notary Public

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