



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of the:
Connecticut Business & Industry Association**

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Transportation Committee Public Hearing – March 7, 2011

Committee Bill No. 819: **An Act Merging the Transportation Strategy Board with the Department of Transportation**

Position: CBIA opposes this bill

Good morning. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as associate counsel with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents roughly ten thousand small and large businesses throughout Connecticut employing hundreds of thousands of Connecticut citizens who rely on a safe, affordable and reliable supply of water.

While we have not been directly involved or consulted with respect to the intent of this proposal, it appears on its face to gut the Transportation Strategy Board by putting it more firmly and formally under the control of the DOT, DECD, Public Safety and OPM.

We were, however, closely involved in the legislation that established the Board. The clear intent was to insert more strategic, macro-economic thinking into transportation planning in Connecticut, while reducing the parochial, political and bureaucratic construct of the time that limited bold-thinking, innovation and progress.

CBIA would be glad to work with the proponents of this bill to improve the function of the Board, better define its role and restructure its composition. This proposal, however, appears to move those issues in the opposite direction of what we would advise.

Accordingly, CBIA opposes Committee Bill No. 819 in its current form.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.