



Department of Economic and
Community Development



David A. Lehman
Commissioner

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE

March 18, 2018

*David A. Lehman, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Senator Witkos, Representative Miller, Representative Floren and members of the committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you concerning Governor Lamont's recommendations for DECD's capital budget.

As you know, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting the arts and cultural and tourism assets.

In an effort to put the state's finances on firmer financial footing, Governor Lamont has wisely called for a reduction in overall bonding. This is reflected in the Governor's FY2020 and 2021 budget, where DECD did not receive additional MAA, EXP, or MIF authorizations. It should be noted, however, that we still have funds available from previous authorizations to support business expansion and recruitment projects. Additionally, the Governor did include \$20 million for brownfields over the coming biennium. Past investments in brownfields have leveraged significant non-state funding and we are grateful for these funds to continue investing in communities across the state.

While the budgetary landscape is certainly a challenging one for state government overall, we at DECD have made substantial adjustments in how we prioritize and spend our limited resources and we will continue to do so. I firmly believe that the Governor's FY2020 and 2021 budget recommendations will provide us with the necessary funding to fulfill the agency's mission. We are going to have to continue to be creative and efficient in using the resources at our disposal, but I am confident that we can and will continue to improve the state's economic competitiveness.

As a result, I respectfully request the committee's support for the Governor's proposals. I also look forward to working with you to implement the agency's capital budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions that you have at this time.