



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Kevin Hennessy
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Before the Task Force to Study Converting Legislative Documents from Paper to
Electronic Form
November 18, 2010**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Task Force to Study Converting Legislative Documents from Paper to Electronic Form (hereafter "the Task Force"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA is supportive of the Task Force's charge to reduce state government's expenses through the adoption of technology and innovation. However, this must be accomplished while maintaining an open, transparent and effective state government. CBIA is concerned that repealing the transcription of public hearings threatens the openness, transparency and effectiveness of all three branches of state government.

Public hearing transcripts are utilized by the legislative, judicial and executive branches. The legislative branch uses public hearing transcripts to review oral testimony that is not submitted in writing. The judicial branch uses public hearing transcripts for assistance in statutory interpretation. State agencies use public hearing transcripts when interpreting statutes and adopting regulations. Businesses interact with all three branches of state government and could be harmed if public hearing transcripts are not available to assist in adjudicatory, legislative and regulatory proceedings.

CBIA recommends that rather than repealing the transcription of public hearings, the Task Force should look for savings from processes that will not negatively impact the openness, transparency and effectiveness of state government. Some options include repealing the printing of statutes, the Legislative Record Index or stationary. The key is to repeal excessive printing costs without sacrificing the integrity of state government.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present CBIA's view.