



**Commerce Committee -Public Hearing - March 13, 2007**  
**Raised Bill No 7369: An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Brownfields Task Force**  
**Written Testimony – Peggy Brennan, President**  
**Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS)**

On behalf of the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS), I wish to express our strong support for Raised Bill 7369: An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Brownfields Task Force.

CEDAS is a not-for-profit membership organization committed to advancing the practice of economic development in Connecticut. CEDAS' 200 plus members include economic development professionals working at the local, regional and state levels, members of municipal economic development commissions, representatives from utilities, lending institutions and consultants. CEDAS' Board of Directors is composed of 21 members who are representative of the economic development profession in all regions of the state.

We firmly believe that a state-wide and holistic approach to brownfields redevelopment is a prerequisite to returning contaminated properties to productive reuse, creating land for economic development opportunities and improving the quality of life in our communities. We believe that brownfields redevelopment must be a key strategy central to the implementation of any State Responsible Growth Initiative.

Streamlining the process for brownfields remediation and development and providing a single point of contact for assistance from state agencies under the Office of Brownfields Redevelopment is necessary. We also believe that, whenever possible, the bill's proposed brownfield programs should be structured to allow regional economic development organizations to assist with outreach, education and fund management. The proposed "Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Fund" integrates these regional organizations in its implementation strategy. In addition, the bill's proposed funding to the Connecticut Development Authority for supporting, underwriting and guaranteeing loans will be a strong incentive for private sector projects.

Raised bill 7369 proposes \$75 million dollars for grants to municipalities, development authorities and non-profits. This funding is critical to move these properties from contamination and blight to productive reuse. Municipalities cannot begin to shoulder the often staggering costs associated with top heavy projects involving significant funding gaps. This level of funding will be required to begin to adequately address gap needs for these projects.

CEDAS commends the Brownfields Task Force for its hard work and for providing a leadership role in helping us address brownfields challenges throughout the State. We offer our continued assistance to the Task Force and the Commerce Committee as members deliberate on this important legislation. We look forward to providing on-going support to the Office of Brownfields Redevelopment in future implementation work. I can be reached at 203-630-4152.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Peggy Brennan  
President