



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

March 1, 2016

To: Senator Joan V. Hartley, Co-Chair
Representative Chris Perone, Co-Chair
Members of the Commerce Committee

From: Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Support for SB 303, AAC An Entrepreneur Lerner's Permit**

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

We strongly support SB 303 as it would greatly assist a start-up company which must navigate a plethora of government agencies in order to "open the doors" to a new business. The multiple fees and costs associated with starting a new business can be daunting. SB 303 would be another step in the right direction to change Connecticut to a business friendly mindset (see our testimony on SB 302 before you today, and our testimony on HB 5047 in Finance, section 1 of which would allow an exemption from the property tax for a business whose personal property has a total assessed value of less than \$10,000). All these bills work together to lead Connecticut toward a better future.

While SB 303 would waive the fee associated with the multiple filings necessary to start a business, we offer an enhancement to this bill to greatly assist a start up business. It is not only the fees associated with filings but also the multiple filings that must be done to various agencies (IRS, DRS, Sect. State, DOL, any licensing agency such as DCP). A new business owner who has not done it before does not know where to begin. **So, in addition to the waiver of fees as proposed, DECD should be authorized to create a uniform comprehensive form (i.e., for all state agencies noted above; you file once and you'll get your Sect. of State Business ID, your state DOL UC number, your DRS sales tax number, any applicable license number, etc.). DECD should include this comprehensive form in a "new business package" that would also include advice on and the form for, for example, how to file for one's EIN with the IRS.** Starting a business should be simple. DECD should provide all the ABCs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important topic.