



Biotech Association Warns about Connecticut proposed legislation

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**REGIONAL BIOTECH ASSOCIATION WARNS
CONNECTICUT LEGISLATION COULD DRIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY JOBS FROM
STATE**

--Hearing in Legislature (March 2) Regarding Four Bills That Threaten State's
Burgeoning Life Sciences Sector--

The region's largest biotechnology association today warned that four bills under consideration today by the Connecticut Legislature have the potential to drive away biotech investment and jobs from the state unless they are rejected.

The New England Biotech Association (NEBA) serves as the regional policy and public affairs voice for the biotechnology and biopharmaceutical community, representing state biotech associations, companies, academic institutions, and other organizations consisting of more than 800 entities, including over 100 in Connecticut.

The association today submitted testimony at a joint hearing of the Public Health, Human Services, and Insurance & Real Estate Committees in opposition to Senate bills 1046, 1048, 1049, and 1050, which collectively restrict information sharing and marketing in the industry.

"We share the concerns expressed by our partners, Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE) and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), that this Legislation will harm Connecticut's biotechnology and life-sciences sector," said Paula Newton, Chairman of NEBA.

"Overly broad state regulation of biotechnology and biopharmaceuticals could have a profoundly negative impact not only on the health and vitality of the burgeoning biotechnology industry in Connecticut, but also on the provision of high-quality medical care to its residents."

Two other states, Colorado and New Mexico, have recently rejected similar legislation as bad policy with unintended negative consequences for the life sciences industry and the jobs it produces.

Massachusetts is pursuing some restrictions similar to those being considered in Connecticut, and is finding that states such as New York are now aggressively trying to recruit its biotech companies across the border due to the pending regulations.

"In the midst of the worst economic downturn in decades, why would the General Assembly of Connecticut knowingly choose a policy path that will lead to diminished research & innovation, a more restrictive environment for life-science business, and further job loss in one of the state's most promising sectors?"

In our view, policy makers should instead explore ways to bolster the state's biosciences sector, which employs over 18,000 and spends more than \$6 billion in operations in the state annually," said Newton.

NEBA is a non-profit, member-driven organization comprised of state biotech associations, companies, academic institutions, and other organizations with a collective mission to support and grow the biotechnology industry in New England.

NEBA serves as the regional policy and public affairs voice for the biotechnology and biopharmaceutical industry, and is committed to ensuring that New England remains a global leader in biotechnology and the life sciences.

NEBA members include the largest biotech associations in those states, including the Biotech Association of Maine, Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE), New Hampshire Bio/Medical Council, Rhode Island BioGroup, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Massachusetts High Technology Council, and the Biotech Association of Vermont (in formation).

To find out more about NEBA, visit www.newenglandbiotech.org