

LARSON, METROHARTFORD ALLIANCE ANNOUNCE \$75,000 ECONOMIC PLANNING GRANT FOR CAPITAL REGION

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HARTFORD- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today announced a \$75,000 federal grant for the MetroHartford Alliance to establish a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Connecticut's Capital Region. The funding was awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The CEDS will provide a blueprint for the region to deal with the loss of manufacturing jobs and promote economic development.

"The region has lost thousands of manufacturing jobs in recent years and we need a strategic approach to adjust to those changes and to strengthen our economy," said Larson. "This funding will go to moving that strategy forward by analyzing the situation and determining the best course of action for the region. I look forward to continuing to work with the MetroHartford Alliance as this planning moves forward."

"Together, the Alliance and our member towns, are eager to take the first steps in identifying areas of growth and creating a specific action plan that will complement the renaissance that is underway in our capital city and throughout the region," said Oz Griebel, president and CEO, MetroHartford Alliance.

The MetroHartford Alliance will undertake an analysis of current economic conditions and assess previous reports and studies to examine the area's economic strengths and weaknesses and create an action plan to promote economic development. The action plan will outline the plans and timetables necessary to achieve the objectives.

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