

# Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-133 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-INDIA TRADE COMMISSION.

**Vote Date:** 3/5/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/17/2026

**File No.:** 71

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Commerce Committee

## **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Sujata Gadkar – Wilcox, 22nd Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Connecticut – India Trade commission, aimed to strengthen the economic relationship, namely through bilateral trade and investment, between the state of Connecticut and India. This commission exists to accomplish this by initiating joint action on policies of mutual interest, promoting business and academic exchange, encourage mutual infrastructure investments. This commission will encourage collaboration between Connecticut and India, benefiting both parties in terms of business, investment, educational exchange, and infrastructure growth.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE: (AS DEPICTED IN LCO NO. 2807)**

Added subdivision 13 which, extends membership to anybody who is well versed in matters relating to commerce if it is deemed necessary to do so by the 30 chairpersons of the joint standing committee.

Additional changes:

- Changed "." to "; and" in line 28.
- Added: "and (13)" in line 37.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner, Daniel O’Keefe](#) is in support of this bill. O’Keefe explains that the mission of the DECD is to develop strategies to increase the economic competitiveness of the state of Connecticut. Through this bill, the creation of the Connecticut- India Trade Commission would fulfill this mission considering India’s status as an ever-growing major economy. Establishing the commission would formalize the relationship between Connecticut and India creating access to goods, services, and technology; particularly in sectors where Connecticut excels, such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology (IT).

## NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut General Assembly, Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox](#) testified in support of this bill. As a child of Indian immigrants Sen. Gadkar -Wilcox recognizes that this bill exists as more than just an avenue for trade she instead sees this as a recognition of deep cultural, educational, social, and business ties between the United States and India. She explains that the Indian community has over 68,112 people of Indian origin residing in Connecticut today, positioning this state as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest population of Indian residents in the United States. In combination with this, Connecticut and India share commonalities in industries such as aerospace, manufacturing, biotechnology, and green energy. Additionally, the creation of the CT- India Trade Commission will be able to ensure increased investments, commerce, and university partnerships between Connecticut and India.

[Town of Rocky Hill, Mayor, Allan Smith](#) is in support of this bill. Explaining that the town he represents, Rocky Hill, is shaped by a growing Indian community. He recognizes that a formalization of Connecticut’s commitment to its relationship to one of its most populous groups would subsequently provide additional talent, STEM opportunity, entrepreneurship, and credible connections between local employers and global markets.

[GOPIO International, Chairman, Dr. Thomas Abraham](#) writes in support of this bill. Recognizing that alongside the steadily growing Indian diasporic community in the state, the creation of a Connecticut – India Trade Commission positively positions Connecticut on a national level within incoming trade agreements between the United States and India. While also, providing a mutually beneficial relationship in which Connecticut which champions, advanced manufacturing, particularly in aerospace, technology, medical devices, and precision manufacturing, will be able to export its talents to India’s rapidly expanding needs, further creating opportunities for Connecticut businesses and residents, intertwining itself with one of the most rapidly growing economies seen today.

[Sharad Patney](#) is in strong support of this bill. Patney exists as the Chief Executive Officer of VLink, Inc. an IT services company headquartered in South Windsor with significant global presence including in India. Within their view, the creation of The Connecticut – India Trade Commission will have the ability to; maximize trade benefits, provide expert international regulatory guidance, integrate supply chain pathways, and provide access to local expertise through the inclusion of the Indian- American community.

[Vanita Bhalla](#) is in support of this bill. Explaining that the creation of a Connecticut- India Trade Commission would help to strengthen Connecticut’s economic competitiveness, trade opportunities, and academic and cultural partnerships.

[Anivarth Parthasarathy](#) testified in Support of this bill, citing the preexisting connections between Connecticut and India ranging from technology companies and services such as Infosys, based in Hartford, and Tata Consultancy Services, a global leader in IT services with several locations throughout the Connecticut as drivers in the continued growth of Connecticut's digital economy. Parthasarathy also recognizes, that Connecticut has managed to establish strong trade connections with India largely through the strong diasporic community residing within the state.

[Joseph Simon and Suresh Sharma](#) are both in support of this bill. Simon and Sharma note that Connecticut's strength in aerospace, technology, medical devices, and precision manufacturing will all be valuable in aligning the state with India's growing market needs creating a beneficial relationship between the state and country. Establishing the Connecticut – India Trade Commission will allow for new collaborative methods and strategies for trade.

[Rajeev Pahuja and Monal Patel](#) have both, submitted similar testimony in support of this bill.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Harland Christofferson](#) is in Opposition of this bill. Christofferson explains that within his view there is too much possibility in this initiative harming Connecticut residents instead of benefiting them. Continuing, that there is no guarantee that the creation of this commission coincides with the creation of local jobs and is instead concerned that this could lead to the outsourcing of Connecticut jobs to Indian companies or could lead to the hiring of Indian workers via H-1B visas.

**Reported by: Enumaah Dadzie, Assistant Clerk      Date: 3/14/2026**