



## HARTFORD AREA BUSINESS ECONOMISTS

June 1, 2002

Jeff Blodgett, Vice President of Research  
Connecticut Economic Resources Center  
805 Brooks St. Bldg. 4  
Rocky Hill, CT. 06067-3405

Dear Jeff:

The Hartford Area Business Economists (HABE) and I want to thank you and Alissa De Jonge for your presentation on the competitiveness of Metro-Hartford in the Insurance Industry at our May 17, 2002 Meeting. It was a great ending to the regular schedule of an innovative and exciting program year.

Your research revealed some important and unexpected trends in the insurance industry over the last decade. The conventional wisdom assumed that De Moines was the beneficiary of Hartford's lost position as the 'Insurance Capital'. The rise of the Southeast in this industry was not expected. It was consoling to learn that the high-skilled, high-productivity insurance jobs are the ones remaining in Hartford, and that what the De Moines have gained, for the most part, are back-office jobs.

I would also like to congratulate you on your results being featured in the lead article for the *Hartford Business Journal* on June 1, 2002. It, by the way, also gave HABE some great exposure.

Once, again, on behalf of the HABE membership, I want to thank you and Alissa for speaking before our group.

Sincerely,

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