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**SECRETARY MERRILL RELEASES NEW
BUSINESS FORMATION DATA IN CONNECTICUT**
A NEW ONLINE PORTAL MAPS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE

HARTFORD: Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill introduced a new data portal that maps business formations throughout the state, potentially allowing government agencies to identify gaps in economic activity as well as successful regional models to replicate.

Secretary Merrill said, “You can’t measure what you can’t count. By mapping economic activity in Connecticut, we can see where government investments are paying off as well as more successful public-private partnerships worth replicating. However, the important thing—at least at this early stage—is that the data is available, accessible and digestible to a wide variety of audiences, including media, universities, chambers of commerce and others. Open government is accountable government.”

“The data portal provides unprecedented access to 36 years of business registry data,” said Michelle Riordan-Nold, Executive Director of the CT Data Collaborative. “We not only make the data available to the public but we provide users the ability to interact with, visualize, and compare the data.”

The information displayed by CTData revealed in 2015 there were more than 28,000 formations of corporations, limited liability companies and other types of businesses with the Secretary of the State’s office versus upwards of 15,000 formations in 1996. However, the numbers also reveal some wide geographic disparities. Many of the formations are clustered in particular regions with far less activity in others.

This is the first release of the project that will continue to get data updates and further refinements to the interactive features based on user feedback. Secretary Merrill will present the business formation portal to potential user groups such as scholars, chambers of commerce and other state and local agencies. She wants to understand how people will search and use the data in an effort to increase the usability of public open data.

The portal is available here: <http://ctbusiness.ctdata.org/#/>