



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
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March 10, 2006

State Senator Andrew J. McDonald, Chairman, Judiciary Committee
State Representative Michael P. Lawlor, Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator McDonald and Representative Lawlor,

Subject: Public Hearing Testimony, Judiciary Committee, March 14, 2006

Reference: RSB#596 - An Act Concerning the Membership of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Incorporated

This testimony is submitted in support of Raised Senate Bill #596 - An Act Concerning the Membership of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Inc. on behalf of the membership and the Governing Council of the Academy.

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering is a non-profit institution formed by Legislative Act in 1976, whose mission is to provide expert guidance on science and technology issues to the state of Connecticut, and promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well being.

The Academy's membership is limited to 200 Members in accordance with both the Academy's enabling legislation and its Bylaws. Based upon the growth of science, engineering and technology activities in industry, academia and government within Connecticut over the past 30 years, as well as interest in recognizing qualified individuals and retaining existing members - to support its mission to advise the state on issues of science and technology - the current membership limit is now prohibitive and not in the best interests of the State or the Academy. The Academy's current membership of 194 combined with this year's newly elected members will result in a total membership that exceeds the legislatively controlled membership limit.

Specifically, we are asking the General Assembly to remove the limitation that the Academy's membership "shall consist of not more than 200 members", and to allow for the Academy's Bylaws to control its membership limit. Additionally, please be advised that in anticipation of the need to increase our membership limit, the membership of the Academy overwhelmingly adopted an amendment to its Bylaws, effective March 10, 2006, to raise the Academy's membership limit to 250 individuals.

It is also noted that each of the National Academies sets their own membership limits as compared to limits prescribed legislatively by Congress.

We would appreciate the support of the Judiciary Committee and the General Assembly for this change to the Academy's enabling legislation.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Werle, Ph.D.
President