



DATE: March 3, 2008

SUBJECT: H.B. 5681 AN ACT CONCERNING FUEL CELL

Senator Fonfara, Representative Fontana, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Deborah Moss. I am Chair and Founder of Avāence Hydrogen Energy Systems, located in Milford, Connecticut. I would like to thank the Committee for raising **H.B. 5681 AN ACT CONCERNING FUEL CELL**.

Bradley International Airport affords an ideal setting to deploy hydrogen-fueled mobile applications. The airport is a self-contained micro community with multiple mobile power needs that have predictable usage patterns. In addition, airports offer high visibility, high traffic arenas to introduce the public to hydrogen technologies. Bradley International Airport will derive environmental benefit from the emission-free power that hydrogen fuel provides.

Avāence strongly supports the establishment of a fuel cell program by the Department of Transportation to promote Connecticut businesses in the fuel cell and hydrogen industries. Avāence encourages the funding of transit buses powered by fuel cells, as well as site utility vehicles such as forklifts and other ground vehicles. Avāence encourages the funding of onsite *compressor-free* hydrogen fueling stations to provide "green" hydrogen fuel for these vehicles and to meet select premium power/backup power needs – affording many benefits to the airport, its environs and nearby residents such as reduced air pollution and reduced noise pollution.

DOT funding for fuel cells and multiple hydrogen refueling hubs in the state will also have a direct and profound impact on high quality job growth in the state of Connecticut. For example, Avāence is a small business spun off from two longstanding CT-based firms; its 'globally first', compressor-free *Hydrofiller* technology advances the commercial viability of onsite production of clean hydrogen energy. *Avāence employs the services of over 46 Connecticut-based suppliers in the course of business* – a community of hi-tech engineering and manufacturing concerns. For each job created by Avāence, an additional 1.31 jobs are indirectly supported elsewhere in Connecticut. As Avāence deploys its *Hydrofillers* and grows, the economic benefit to the state employee base and revenues is dramatic.

In sum, Avāence hopes to participate in, and strongly supports funding for fuel cells to be used as an alternative energy source to power Connecticut transit buses and Bradley International Airport, and establishing multiple onsite hydrogen refueling hubs in the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Deborah Moss
Chair, Founder

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