



GrowJobsCT

MANUFACTURING MAKES CT'S FUTURE

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Testimony of John Harranty
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Supporting Proposed HB 6000

AN ACT CREATING GREEN JOBS

Energy and Technology Committee
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Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, members of the committee: my name is John Harranty. I serve as Director of GrowJobsCT, a coalition of business, labor and community groups, along with elected officials, that focuses on the need to sustain and expand manufacturing jobs in the state of Connecticut.

I am here today to speak in support of **HB 6000, AN ACT CREATING GREEN JOBS.**

Obviously, this is a very general proposal that needs specifics in order to have an impact. But its intent indicates exactly the direction in which the state needs to head.

Connecticut has more than 188,000 manufacturing workers, which is over 11% of the total workforce. Manufacturing still matters in this state, as a source of good jobs, a significant business activity and as a tax base for communities and our state. The multiplier effect of manufacturing means that every manufacturing job in Connecticut generates another two to four non-manufacturing jobs.

Every indication is that renewable energy will become the economic engine that revives and drives, not just the US economy, but also the global economy for the foreseeable future. The tremendous demand for energy is colliding with the need for renewable forms of that energy, and the looming threat of global warming and climate change.

Last week I attended a conference in Washington DC called the "Green Jobs/Good Jobs" Conference, where two thousand participants from labor, environmental groups, business and other advocates explored the emerging shape of the new economy. The clearest lesson I took from that gathering was that states and communities across the country are trying to position themselves for this activity. If Connecticut stands still, we will be left behind. Even in these extraordinarily harsh economic times, we must make the investments needed to be part of this new economy.

In many ways, we are well-positioned for developing green manufacturing. Without a doubt, our surest bet in this field is fuel cells, where the state already hosts more than 13% of global employment in the industry. I would strongly urge the legislature to invest in helping this industry reach commercial viability – which could be done through a

multi-year program to purchase fuel cells for state use and assist other private entities in their purchase. It is estimated that sales of 200 to 250 MW of fuel cell generation could result in as many as 10,000 – 12,000 new jobs in Connecticut. Strategic investment and/or assistance for fuel cells at this time will bring a much greater return, and position the state to survive and thrive in the new economy.

Connecticut is also the perfect location to test the concept of the “hydrogen highway,” given our size and prime location in the northeast corridor. A few strategically placed hydrogen refueling stations, combined with purchases of the fuel cell bus already operating in the region, could help prime significant numbers of jobs building that equipment.

Connecticut is also home to a number of companies in the optics/photonics field, a sector that employs more than 3,700 Connecticut workers. This industry includes commercial and residential lighting that can cut energy consumption by 30%. The optics/photonics industry is another green manufacturing activity already located in the state, with tremendous growth potential.

It is also worth exploring the manufacture of wind turbine components. The demand for wind turbines right now is beyond the capacity of the current manufacturers. There are 8,000 components in a wind turbine, and much of the production is strikingly similar to aerospace manufacturing, where we have excess capacity and thousands of skilled workers. Here the state could play a role in getting a better understanding of the possible opportunities and challenges, using the cluster network facilitated by the Department of Economic and Community Development, and also the CT Center for Advanced Technology, to match the needs of the wind turbine industry with Connecticut manufacturers.

Finally I would add that workforce development will be key in this effort. If we want any industries, including green manufacturing, to locate and grow here, we need to ensure that our historic legacy of high skills is preserved. This requires training for incumbent workers, and better preparation and recruitment of young people into manufacturing. Again, this is an expense in the short run, but an investment in the future that brings a much greater return.

Thank you.