

Testimony of Donna Seresin

March 23, 2009

Good day, members of the committee my name is Donna Seresin, and I live in Hamden, CT. I am a chapter delegate, chapter officer in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 and I have worked as a Sanitary Engineer for the State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection for the last 23 years.

I am providing written testimony today in favor of S. B. No. 1144
**(RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULE
AND TELECOMMUTING OPTIONS FOR THE STATE EMPLOYEES.**

The State of Connecticut currently has a policy concerning telecommuting for its employees, but only a tiny fraction – of the state's nearly, 60,000 state employees are currently participating in this program.

Just recently, I received authorization and began telecommuting (once again) one day per week. I had telecommuted for several years back in the late 1980s until it was eliminated as an option. Last year I supported last year's version of this bill and DEP brought the idea of telecommuting to DEP through a series of information meetings sponsored by Telecommute Connecticut.

I have always been a producer of a high volume of work. I am a proponent of telecommuting because more work can be done at home because there are fewer distractions. Since my work entails reviewing many large technical reports I need large uninterrupted chunks of time to get the work done. When I am in the DEP building in Hartford I am in a big room with nearly 80+ people with only a cubicle wall between me and my co-workers. Since we are servicing the public there are many conversations going on at the same time. This makes having uninterrupted time to review engineering plans and reports extremely difficult.

Last summer I became a team leader, working for a group (the Lean team) that is making our government run more efficiently. I am very passionate about making government more efficient especially in these tough economic

times. We need to save money for the State, in any manner we can. I believe telecommuting CAN save the state money. So supporting this bill is very important to me.

I am also hoping that enough people will start telecommuting so that we get cars off the road at peak commuting times which will lower pollution in our state and lessen the demand on our over taxed transportation system.

Although I have only been telecommuting 3 weeks I have been able to review and provide comments on three different engineering plans. I have saved 6 hours in commuting time and have reduced pollution to the environment. The thing I most passionate about is having a greener, leaner DEP. I believe telecommuting is one BIG part of the answer.

I am sorry I am unable to attend today's hearing; I am busy working on making DEP Leaner.

As a taxpayer and a dedicated DEP employee I urge you to support this bill. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at DEP or though the union. Thank you.