



Testimony by Richard C. Mullins, Jr.
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Before the
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
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Good Afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I'm Rick Mullins and I am here today on behalf of President Jack Miller. I manage the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5427, *An Act Concerning Green Manufacturing Programs and the Production of Environmentally Preferred Products*.

Since 1986, CCSU through its outreach programs, like those at ITBD have supported Connecticut organizations with training & workforce development, conference & event services, business assistance and incubation. A recent report by the American Solar Energy Society entitled "The Green Collar Jobs Report", forecasts 37 million jobs from renewable energy and energy efficiency in the U.S. by 2030. The report indicates the four hottest industry sectors in renewable energy are; solar, wind, bio-fuels and fuel cell technology. Further renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE&EE) industries represented more than 9 million jobs and \$1,045 billion in U.S. revenue. A detailed analysis of the green economy and the renewable energy industry in the report states that these areas grew three times as fast as the U.S. economy. Solar thermal, photovoltaic, biodiesel, and ethanol sectors lead the way, each with 25%+ annual revenue growth.

The need for a skilled workforce in renewable energy technologies in Connecticut is not foreign to CCSU ITBD. One of our business incubators, PV² (Photovoltaic's installation company) received a \$16,000 grant to support the development of a skilled workforce to serve their clients on installation projects in CT and Western, MA. Funding came from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), Small Business Incubator Program (SBIP) administered by Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology

(CCAT). PV² contracted with another incubator company at CCSU ITBD to provide safety training for the new hires.

Since the early 90's CCSU ITBD has been supporting the manufacturing community in CT with non-credit and CEU workforce development programs. Many of these programs such as Lean, Six Sigma and ISO 9000 and 14,000 (Environmental Quality Mfg Standard) have assisted companies in process and productivity improvements. CCSU ITBD has assisted over 70 companies with ISO 9000 preparation. Success with many of these initiatives has been documented by the Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration (CMSCI). CMSCI reports outcomes and improvements in 5 categories; Lead Time 53%, Cycle Time 37%, Set-up Time 49%, Quality Improvement 48% and Space Reduction 38%. These improvements lead to opportunities in growing a company's workforce, adding capacity and defining\producing new products.

CCSU ITBD is currently offering three distinctive programs across the state. Two in open-enrollment formats, the March, the KPMG Executive Breakfast session focusing on "Green Business Strategies" the April School of Business series focusing on "Profiting from Going Green". New Britain Mayor, Timothy Stewart has reached out to CCSU ITBD to assist in the development of a City initiative to end homelessness which includes a workforce development approach addressing "the greening the community". CCSU ITBD is uniquely skilled to lead the development of sustainable energy and environmentally preferred product certifications programs to prepare students for careers and in manufacturing and or assist students in incubating their business ideas to support green industry needs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed bill and I would be happy to answer questions that you have at this time.
