



The Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee

Testimony by

Ed Klonoski

Executive Director, Board for State Academic Award
President, Charter Oak State College

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Good morning Senator Handley, Representative Willis, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

My name is Ed Klonoski and I am President of Charter Oak State College. I am here today to support **Proposed Bill No. 19, An Act Concerning Authorization of Bonds of the State for Charter Oak State College and the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC)**. Charter Oak State College is requesting inclusion in the FY 10 Bonding Bill for \$2 million for the design work for a new building. This request also includes a traffic study as per the neighborhood request. We had requested these funds in the FY 09 mid-term budget adjustment, but the General Assembly did not approve additional bonding projects.

The current Charter Oak State College building, located adjacent to Central CT State University, was designed only for the College. It was completed in 1999 when our sister organization, the CTDLC, was just newly created. By the time we took occupancy, we had already out grown the building. Therefore, in fall 2002, the CTDLC moved to leased space on Alumni Road in Newington. With the continued growth of the College, some staff will be moving shortly to expanded leased space on Alumni Road due to the 100% utilization of space at the College.

In 2006, the Bonding Subcommittee supported \$50,000 for a feasibility study regarding combined space for the College and the CTDLC which lead to the selection of DPW's selection of James Vance & Associates to perform the scope of work for the Space Needs & Location Study. The focus of the study was to develop a space needs program for the next 10 years; review Central Connecticut State University and downtown New Britain proposed sites, and to prepare schematic floor plans, site plans, and preliminary construction cost estimates for each site. The study suggested a building of at least 48,000 square feet and not more than 57,000 square feet.

This new building would allow the College and the Consortium to again co-locate. Both organizations share a data center, IT staff, and HR and business office personnel. Creating a single point of presence for the Board for State Academic Awards would facilitate our use of shared employees, improve our ability to collaborate, and eliminate approximately \$84,000 in costs for leased space.

After review of three potential sites, it was determined that Central Connecticut State University's property on Barbour Street would be the best location for a new building. We have had positive discussions with neighborhood groups and the Mayor of New Britain regarding construction of a building on that site. As I mentioned earlier, this funding would also include a traffic study which the neighborhood requested. Additionally, CCSU continues to have an interest in our current building and has plans to incorporate the existing Charter Oak State College into their campus for administrative purposes.

A three story building of 50,996 square feet, which was the most efficient of building types reviewed in the study, was the preferred configuration. The basement would be 6,810 sf, the first floor would be 18,946 sf, the second and third floors would be 12,620 sf. The approximate cost of the building in FY 10 dollars would be \$17,876,912. This amount includes construction, site work, and all related fees.

We thank you for your consideration and are ready to answer any question you might have.