



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TESTIMONY

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING: MARCH 26, 2009

RAISED SENATE BILL #898 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, INC.

This testimony is submitted in support of Raised Senate Bill #898 -- An Act Concerning the Membership of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Inc. on behalf of the membership and the Governing Council of the Academy. This bill is consistent with the Academy's request to amend Section 3 of special act 76-53, as amended by section 1 of special act 06-2 to eliminate the requirement that the membership of the Academy be limited to not more than two hundred and fifty members and to permit such membership to be prescribed by the Academy's bylaws

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering is a non-profit institution formed by Legislative Act in 1976, whose mission is to provide expert guidance on science and technology issues to the state of Connecticut, and promote the application of science and technology to human welfare and economic well being. The Academy's Governing Council adopted a resolution on October 15, 2008 requesting the adoption of the requested legislation by the General Assembly to remove the legislatively prescribed membership limitation and to permit the Academy through its bylaws to determine its membership limit.

For your information, the Academy's membership, since its founding in 1976 until 2006, consisted "*of not more than 200 members*" in accordance with both the Academy's Bylaws and its enabling legislation. By amendment to this legislation, in 2006 the General Assembly by Special Act 06-02 increased the Academy membership limit from 200 to 250. Based upon the growth of science, engineering and technology activities in industry, academia and government within Connecticut over the past 30 years, as well as interest in having the opportunity to recognize qualified individuals and retain existing members, the existing membership limit is now prohibitive and not in the best interests of the State or the Academy. Additionally, it is noted that each of the National Academies sets their own membership limits as compared to limits prescribed legislatively by Congress.

We would appreciate the support of the Judiciary Committee and the General Assembly for this change to the Academy's enabling legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Myron Genel, MD
President