



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Connecticut

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
REGARDING RAISED HOUSE BILL 6284
February 3, 2009

Good morning, my name is Paul Brady. I am the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut, representing some 100 consulting engineering firms in the state. I would like to testify in support of Raised House Bill 6284, *AN ACT CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A MODEL ENERGY CODE AND GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS*.

Section 78 of Public Act 07-242 required the State Codes and Standards Committee to include in the State Building Code that many building projects meet LEED Silver, Two Green Globes or equivalent requirements as of January 1, 2009. The language of these new requirements is extremely confusing. The design and construction industry, building code officials, the Department of Public Safety, and even the Attorney General's office acknowledge that this statute needs to be revamped. This uncertainty is delaying projects, driving construction and related jobs out of Connecticut and increasing the cost of public works projects.

The changes proposed in this bill would authorize the Codes and Standards Committee and the State Building Inspector to develop a state energy code and other sustainable building standards which are enforceable, understandable and workable. It gives the code officials the flexibility to adjust to new and changing standards and technologies. It also allows code officials to develop a workable protocol for complying with these new requirements.

By passing this legislation, Connecticut can resume a leadership role in green building design and construction. We believe that such a program can preserve our environment, save energy and other natural resources and make Connecticut an inviting place to build homes and businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.