



# DISTRICT LODGE 26

*International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; AFL-CIO*

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Testimony of John Harrity  
Representative, IAM District 26

Supporting Proposed Bills:

SB 1129 & SB 1130 – AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AND THE STATE'S ECONOMY

Energy and Technology Committee and Commerce Committee  
March 17, 2009

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, members of both committees: my name is John Harrity. I am here today as a representative of the International Association of Machinists District 26.

I am here to speak in support of SB 1129 and 1130 – An Act Concerning Energy and the State's Economy.

I will be brief. This initiative links together our need to increase our energy supply, the urgency to turn towards renewables and conservation and away from foreign oil, and the imperative to sustain and create the next generation of jobs in Connecticut.

I want to focus on this last aspect in particular. We hear from every quarter the call for "green jobs." The proposals in these bills go beyond rhetoric and take action, to concentrate energy investments on Connecticut-manufactured equipment.

That means jobs for Connecticut workers, supporting activities that are crucial to our state's future and exportable around the world.

The legislation applies to any renewable energy equipment manufactured in the state. This is particularly significant to the fuel cell industry, where Connecticut currently hosts 13% of *global* employment in this field.

Helping this industry reach its full market potential can mean thousands of Connecticut jobs. We also know that fuel cell manufacturing has a "ripple effect," creating about 2.3 other jobs for each job in the industry. That means jobs for Connecticut workers.

Finally, more orders for fuel cells means reaching the economy of scale needed to significantly drop the price point for this technology, making it increasingly attractive to the global market – and that means jobs for Connecticut workers.

With the gloom of recession hanging heavily over every major economic sector in our state – this legislation helps create a bright spot, a source of hope for Connecticut workers and manufacturers. This is how we as a state craft a viable future, for ourselves and our children.

This legislation is how we answer the questions: if not us -- who? If not now – when?

Thank you.