



At Eastern Connecticut
State University

Testimony of William Leahy
Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University
Before the
Committees on Commerce and Energy and Technology
Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Good morning, Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and distinguished members of the Committees on Commerce and Energy and Technology. My name is William Leahy and I am the Chief Operating Officer for the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) and I am speaking on behalf of President Elsa Nunez. I am here today to speak in support of **Raised Bill 1129 - An Act Concerning Energy and the State's Economy**. I believe the recommendations in this raised bill will improve the **Connecticut Electric Efficiency Partners Program**, help to fulfill our state's mission of energy independence, promoting new business expansion and creating workforce development programs for Green Collar Jobs in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest in providing Connecticut's energy consumer's with a reliable and affordable energy supply while moving us toward a more sustainable energy future. **First of all, the Institute for Sustainable Energy would be happy to serve as a member of the proposed "Energy Innovation Council."** In addition, ISE applauds the attention you have given to in-state business development and workforce development issues for Connecticut. The ISE supports your concerns over the current economic climate in our state and country and its impact on Connecticut's businesses and workforce. This proposed bill provides a new direction for this program that is compatible with the goals of the ARRA for improving energy infrastructure, creating sustainable jobs, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and using domestic fuels and renewable energy sources. As redesigned, it should align Connecticut to successfully compete for federal recovery and reinvestment funding.

Connecticut's Opportunity

Connecticut has the opportunity to participate in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,ⁱ and take a leadership position in creating a more energy efficient society and brighter future by deploying businesses that manufacture and install more sustainable technology and by creating jobs for a well trained Green-Collar workforce. Through the opportunities available by expanding the **Connecticut Electric Efficiency Partners Program**, local companies will benefit from stabilized energy cost through projects that utilize energy efficiency equipment, install renewable energy systems, reduce natural gas and oil consumption, and include highly efficient systems such as combined heat and power systems, solar thermal heating and geothermal heating and cooling. This effort will help create new green technology businesses as well as generate sustainable Green Collar Jobs.

What is a Green-Collar Job?

Green-Collar Jobs are

- Jobs that preserve, restore, or improve the environment.
- Jobs that help save energy, advance new energy efficient technologies, and foster a more sustainable regional and national energy system.
- Either blue or white collar positions, updated to adopt sustainability as a core segment of the individuals' job description.
- Career opportunity capable of supporting a family's income, with the potential for advancement.

Why do we Need Green-Collar Jobs?

Green-Collar Jobs provide us with a host of opportunities and advantages, such as:

- Creating new jobs or retraining the unemployed in a time of economic downturn.
- Providing opportunities for career advancement in the sustainability fields.
- Reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and strengthening national security.
- Promoting the use of domestic technology and renewable energy resources.
- Mitigating climate change by cutting green house gas emissions.

What are the Green Collar Jobs?

The **family supporting, career tracking sustainable jobs** created directly by the "Connecticut Electric Efficiency Partner Program" and American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan (ARRA), will grow out of the economic activity created by businesses supporting energy infrastructure projects. Most will be jobs in construction, service industries and even manufacturing. These jobs will generally offer higher than average wages and include a significant percentage of union jobs, as well as jobs for women and minorities. Below is a sample of the jobs projectedⁱⁱ from the federal recovery plan. As you will see, the CT Electric Efficiency Partners Program parallels and is complimentary to the ARRA effort.

GREEN INVESTMENTS AND JOBS	
STRATEGIES FOR GREEN ECONOMIC INVESTMENT	REPRESENTATIVE JOBS
Building Retrofitting	Electricians, Heating/Air Conditioning Installers, Carpenters, Construction Equipment Operators, Roofers, Insulation Workers, Carpenter Helpers, Industrial Truck Drivers, Construction Managers, Building Inspectors
Mass Transit/Freight Rail	Civil Engineers, Rail Track Layers, Electricians, Welders, Metal Fabricators, Engine Assemblers, Bus Drivers, Dispatchers, Locomotive Engineers, Railroad Conductors
Smart Grid	Computer Software Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Electrical Equipment Assemblers, Electrical Equipment Technicians, Machinists, Team Assemblers, Construction Laborers, Operating Engineers, Electrical Power Line Installers and Repairers
Wind Power	Environmental Engineers, Iron and Steel Workers, Millwrights, Sheet Metal Workers, Machinists, Electrical Equipment Assemblers, Construction Equipment Operators, Industrial Truck Drivers, Industrial Production Managers, First-Line Production Supervisors
Solar Power	Electrical Engineers, Electricians, Industrial Machinery Mechanics, Welders, Metal Fabricators, Electrical Equipment Assemblers, Construction Equipment Operators, Installation Helpers, Laborers, Construction Managers
Advanced Biofuels	Chemical Engineers, Chemists, Chemical Equipment Operators, Chemical Technicians, Mixing and Blending Machine Operators, Agricultural Workers, Industrial Truck Drivers, Farm Product Purchasers, Agricultural and Forestry Supervisors, Agricultural Inspectors

Recommendations for the Commerce Committee

- **Raised Bill 1129** – Change the program name of the “Connecticut Electric Efficiency Partners Program” to the “**Connecticut Energy Efficiency Partners Program.**” This new name will better reflect the expanded scope of the program objectives to not only conserve electric energy and reduce electric demand, but also promote the use of renewable energy sources, conserve natural gas and oil, and utilize advanced technologies such as solar thermal, geothermal, fuel cells and combined heat and power.
- **Raised Bill 1129** – Consider the development of standardized contract language for encouraging performance contracts which would utilize funds from alternate sources other than Connecticut taxpayers and the electric ratepayers. These contracts would include using tax treatments for private developers, encourage the use of funds from commercial investors as well as utilize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Funds. Massachusetts has successfully financed infrastructure improvements for municipal and state buildings utilizing a standardized Department of Construction Asset Management Performance Contract for six years, reducing cost impacts to its citizens.
- **Raised Bill 1129** – ISE supports your recommendation to favor projects that utilize in-state technology manufacturers and service providers. Funds from state taxpayers and ratepayers should go to Connecticut based firms using Connecticut workers.

Thank you for this opportunity to support your assessment of this important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

Respectfully Submitted;

William M. Leahy

William M. Leahy,
Chief Operating Officer

End notes:

¹Pollin, et al, “The Job Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan”
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/pdf/green_recovery.pdf (September 2008).

²Christina Romer, Jared Bernstein; “Green Recovery”
http://otrans.3cdn.net/ee40602f9a7d8172b8_ozm6bt5oi.pdf (January 9, 2009).

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University was established in 2001 to provide an unbiased view of energy resources and practical solutions to improving the state's energy profile and to promote a more sustainable energy future for Connecticut. The Institute's focuses on matters related to the formation of public policy, providing educational outreach, supporting energy solutions and maintaining information resources on energy and sustainability. The Institute provides benchmarking and energy planning services, relative to energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources and the application of high performance building standards, to Connecticut's municipal governments, school systems and state agencies.

William M. Leahy is the Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU). He holds a BS and MS in Industrial Education from Central Connecticut State University and a MS in Business from Rensselaer. He earned a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) and Certified Sustainable Development Manager (CSDM) from the Association of Energy Engineers and is a LEED Accredited Profession from the US Green Building Council. Leahy has forty years of experience in public education and/or energy management.

In 2002, Leahy was appointed Director at the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University. Institute is the recipient of the 2004 National Energy Star Partnership Award for Community Leadership in Energy Education from the US Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, as well as numerous recognitions from regional and state organizations.