

Testimony of William Stillinger
Before the
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
February 19, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Handley, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I am William Stillinger, General Manager of PV Squared, a design/build solar energy business with offices in New Britain CT (and Greenfield MA). I am here to speak in support of House Bill 5427, *An Act Concerning Green Manufacturing Programs and the Production of Environmentally Preferred Products*.

We got our start in Connecticut largely because the Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Technology and Business Development (CCSU's ITBD) provided the infrastructure we needed to get a new business underway. PV Squared has created 14 jobs as a provider of clean energy to homes, businesses, municipalities, and other public institutions.

By preparing people for the 21st century workforce Proposed House Bill 5427 could provide an important boost to my business and to everyone involved in green enterprise throughout the state. The general population needs to move away from fossil fuels and to become more efficient and energy independent.

Electricians, electrical inspectors, plumbers, carpenters, building inspectors, architects, engineers, and a broad range of other professions and practitioners: This is the workforce that needs to be trained and certified. The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) has taken some important initial steps* in this direction. But more is needed. We need to train people in the safe and effective installation and operation of these emerging technologies. CCSU's ITBD can complete the task.

Thank you for your time.

*The DCP has a licensing procedure certifying solar thermal and solar photovoltaic installers working in the state.