

Testimony of

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before

Commerce Committee

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regarding

Raised House Bill No. 5440

An Act Concerning an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

### ***Introduction***

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. ("CCAT"), offers this testimony for Raised House Bill No. 5440 - An Act Concerning an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

CCAT is a nonprofit corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs and businesses and, through collaboration with industry, academia, and government, helps companies innovate and compete, thereby strengthening our nation in the global market. The Energy Initiative of CCAT has been established to improve the economic competitiveness of the region through solutions that lower energy costs and increase long-term energy reliability. CCAT administers the Connecticut Hydrogen-Fuel Cell Coalition; provides assistance to small and medium sized manufacturers to assess opportunities for the application of enhanced demand-side management technologies, such as combined heat and power systems, undertakes energy planning; and promotes renewable energy, including fuel cells and sustainable fuels.

This Bill contains components that are favorable to the development and use of advanced vehicle technologies and alternative fuel vehicles, including electric vehicles. Section 3 of this Bill includes a provision to establish an "electric vehicle infrastructure support account" to provide grants to businesses seeking to upgrade infrastructure to support the use of electric vehicles statewide. This Section should be explicitly modified to include hydrogen powered fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen refueling infrastructure to avoid confusion and to support this state's hydrogen and fuel cell industry.

Support for this state's hydrogen and fuel cell industry is appropriate as both the equipment that produces hydrogen for the fuel cell, and certain fuel cells for transportation applications are manufactured here in Connecticut. Unlike other advanced vehicle technologies, hydrogen production and fuel cells would provide jobs in Connecticut for engineering and manufacturing, not just servicing. The use of hydrogen and fuel cells for transportation applications provides significant emission reductions for passenger vehicles and mass transit. In Connecticut, passenger cars and light duty trucks are responsible for 61 percent of transportation greenhouse gas emissions. A fuel cell powered passenger vehicle using hydrogen from renewable sources can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 10,000 pounds per year compared to gasoline powered passenger vehicles.

### *Conclusion*

CCAT is supportive of the concepts raised in this Bill to promote the development of infrastructure to support the use of advanced vehicle technologies and alternative fuel vehicles, including electric vehicles. Modifying this Bill to include hydrogen powered fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen refueling infrastructure to will support this state's hydrogen and fuel cell industry and could provide substantial opportunities for economic development and job creation in Connecticut.

CCAT will make itself available to the Committee and legislature upon request to assist in the refinement of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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