



# GrowJobsCT

## MANUFACTURING MAKES CT'S FUTURE

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Testimony of John Harrity  
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Supporting Proposed Bill:

### HB 5465 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS

Energy and Technology Committee  
March 2010

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, members of the committee: my name is John Harrity. I serve as Director of GrowJobsCT, a coalition of business, labor and community groups, along with elected officials, that focuses on the need to sustain and expand manufacturing jobs in the state of Connecticut.

I am here to speak in support of raised bill HB 5465 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS.

As a member of the Speaker's Green Jobs Working Group, I am pleased to see so many of the group's recommendations put into proposed legislation. Every government body on earth has the topic of "green jobs" on their agenda right now, so it is critical to our state's competitive future that we embrace this initiative and act aggressively in coordinating and funding our efforts.

Ultimately, the best outcome of a serious focus on green jobs is not just conversion of our power generation system to one utilizing greater conservation and renewable resources, but a state economy that actually exports green, renewable energy products and services – like fuel cells -- to other states and countries.

Going through the bill, I hope that there is enough centralized coordination of this effort to correct our current situation, where there are a multitude of efforts dealing with green jobs and technologies, but a deficit of communications and direction of those efforts. The bill outlines roles for several state agencies and some new leadership in this area. I would strongly urge that as much of this work as can be is centralized under one authority, and at a minimum, literally all information related to the initiatives outlined here end up in one accessible, understandable website.

To briefly address three other important points:

The Green Jobs Advisory Board contains a number of state agency representatives and representatives of the utility companies. It has to have representation from organized labor. The labor movement is in the forefront of developing this field nationally, and has the best knowledge and experience about the needs of workers in Connecticut.

Asking the State Treasurer to investigate the use of state pension funds to help foster Connecticut green manufacturing is a smart move that mirrors successful initiatives in other states.

Having DECD's Office of Small Business Affairs provide assistance to innovators seeking patent protection is another smart idea that will provide a great return, by allowing inventors and innovators the space to develop and produce new green technologies in our state without the fear of intellectual property theft and suppression by large interests, including other countries.

In Sec. 17, there is an ambitious program outlined to promote the use of Class III sources for power generation. I would like to suggest that a provision be added, stating that every one percent of Class III technology manufactured in Connecticut, for purposes of this section, be counted as 1.25% towards the total required by the electric distribution company. This would encourage the use of technologies made here, and help create more green jobs.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today. I will be glad to answer any questions.

Thank you.

John Harrity