

Written testimony of Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of: **HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut**

Connecticut Employees Union Independent represents close to 5000 workers who work for the State of Connecticut in maintenance and trade positions at the Department of Transportation, the State Universities and other agencies and institutions. We support the passage of HB 5126 because it will help promote safe workplaces for our members. It is our belief that having a Chemical Innovations Institute will help reduce the use of toxic chemicals that are increasingly linked to the incidence of chronic diseases.

Our Union is the community partner working with researchers at UConn Health Center in Farmington. This four year grant involves a study of cleaning products in use by our members at a number of State institutions. The study will look at the effect of the use of green cleaning and other types of cleaning products on workers' health. The project will also identify best practices. This project is an example of the type of work that an Institute would support.

A Chemical Innovations Institute will be a valuable resource for promoting workers' health.

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