

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION

WALLACE BARNES  
CHAIRMAN

March 1, 2010

The Honorable John A. Kissel  
The Honorable Mary M. Mushinsky  
Co-Chair, Legislative Program Review  
and Investigations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 5164 – An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment in the Green Industry.

Dear Senator Kissel and Representative Mushinsky:

The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) is Connecticut's state workforce investment board. CETC provides policy and planning guidance to the Governor and General Assembly on workforce development, training and education-related matters and promotes coordination of relevant efforts in Connecticut. The majority of CETC members are business sector employers, with the balance representing organized labor, education, state agencies, community-based organizations and other key stakeholders. The Connecticut Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) provides technical assistance and support.

On CETC's behalf, I want to express support for Raised Bill No. 5164, *An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment in the Green Industry*, drafted as a product of the Committee's December 2009 report on *Connecticut's Economic Competitiveness in Selected Areas*.

In April 2009, CETC established the Connecticut Green Jobs Council (Council) in response to Governor Rell's Executive Order 23 establishing a blueprint for green jobs in Connecticut. In response to competitive funding opportunities available through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Council subsequently transitioned into the Connecticut Green Jobs Partnership (Partnership) and submitted a successful proposal for a \$3,360,000 State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) training and strategic planning grant. The Partnership's winning proposal was submitted on CETC's behalf, the eligible entity in its capacity as Connecticut's state workforce investment board. The Partnership comprises a broad spectrum of state agencies, education leaders, representatives of the state's green industries, organized labor, workforce development officials and community organizations. In fact, each of the entities identified in the various sections of Raised Bill No. 5164 is included as a Partnership member.

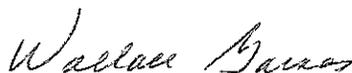
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The proposed efforts outlined in the six sections of Raised Bill No. 5164 are entirely consistent with the green jobs creation strategic initiatives for Connecticut that will be promoted by the Partnership going forward, and also with the training efforts that will be supported by the SESP grant. We appreciate the Committee's efforts to focus on the need for a coordinated green jobs creation strategy for Connecticut. I believe that the proposed legislation promotes a set of useful, practical steps to promote that strategic agenda.

We will continue to follow your efforts on these matters with great interest. In conjunction with our colleagues from the Connecticut Green Jobs Partnership and the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, we would be pleased to consider providing any further support you may think helpful as you move forward with this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wallace Barnes".

Wallace Barnes  
Chairman