



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier

Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara and Representative Nardello and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I'm here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 220,000 working women and men from every city and town in our great state.

I am here to testify regarding H.B. No. 6249 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF WIND PROJECTS UNTIL THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS. The Connecticut AFL-CIO has some concerns regarding this proposed legislation. First we are concerned about the impact this legislation will have on jobs. Green energy manufacturing is a bright spot in our gloomy manufacturing sector. Green manufactures tend to be located near their customers and this moratorium would place an undue burden on this piece of the green energy puzzle. Secondly, many of my affiliates represent workers who have an economic interest in these products, namely they are employed in the energy industry. Holding off on new projects is asking these workers to take a personal hit in their wallets and that is not good for Connecticut either.

The focus on green energy is exciting. Connecticut is in the lead when it comes to fuel cell technology as well. Today Connecticut has 13% of the world wide workforce in fuel cells and is home to three of the lead manufacturers of fuel cell technology. At Hamilton Sundstrand workers have made props and propellers for nearly a century and wind turbine is a natural step for these workers to take. Let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Let's look at green energy, all forms of green energy as the future for our manufacturing workers. We have a terrific opportunity here and we look forward to working with the Energy and Technology Committee and the entire General Assembly to keep Connecticut at the front of the green energy parade.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

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