



My name is Thomas Jackson, CTO Emeritus of Avalence, LLC, a Milford based company that designs and manufactures unique high-pressure hydrogen electrolyzers. I am here today, along with my colleagues Steve Weiss and Todd LeBlanc to speak in support of House Bill 6127, "promoting the use of fuel cells in vehicles".

In support of this position, I have attached a copy of a "Letter of Understanding" signed by executives of Ford, GM, Daimler AG, Honda, Hyundai/Kia, Renault/Nissan, and Toyota, outlining their views on the "development and market introduction of fuel cell vehicles". This letter not only outlines the development and production plan for fuel cell vehicles, but also emphasizes the need for the build-up of a hydrogen infrastructure – the means to provide fueling stations for the vehicles. This build-up, of necessity, must be aligned with the roll-out of the fuel cell vehicles. Either one, without the other, will fail.

The stakes, economically, environmentally, and strategically, are huge. Our national energy security and the strength of our economy in the new energy age will benefit from a robust portfolio of fuel cell and hydrogen generating technologies. As we speak, Hawaii, Germany, The Netherlands, Scandinavia, Norway, The United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea, are all embarking on plans to develop "Hydrogen Highways", with scheduling consistent with the above referenced "Letter of Understanding". The European Union, through their "Joint Technology Initiative", a public-private coalition, has committed to invest nearly one billion Euros over six years in fuel cell and hydrogen research, development, and demonstration.

Connecticut currently ranks among the world leaders in this emerging technology. Our state is home to many companies, large and small, that are spearheading the innovations necessary to see its successful commercialization. We need to maintain this leadership position, both in fuel cells and the necessary supporting infrastructure.

We urge passage of this bill. As this technology gains traction around the world, let the world know that Connecticut is committed to maintaining its leadership position.

Thank you for your attention;

Thomas Jackson,
CTO Emeritus, Avalence, LLC
1240 Oronoque Rd., Milford, Ct 06461
(203) 701-0052
tjj@avalence.com