



**Testimony of Lori Pelletier
Secretary-Treasurer
Connecticut AFL-CIO
Commerce Committee
Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator LeBeau and Representative Berger, and members of the Commerce committee. My name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary - Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns.

H.B. No. 5340 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY-RELATED JOBS TASK FORCE.

We support this legislation. One example of the importance of this legislation is that today Connecticut employs 13% of the worldwide workforce in the fuel cell industry. This workforce worldwide is expected to exceed 500,000 jobs and if this blossoms as expected it could mean in excess of 50,000 jobs here in the state. We must be prepared to meet this demand.

We would make one recommendation for this task force and that would be to add an additional member representing the Department of Labor commissioner or their designee. The DOL is a vital resource when it comes to workforce development and they would be an asset to the task force.

We appreciate the committee holding this public hearing and if you have any questions I would be happy to address them.

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