



University of
Connecticut

Commerce Committee

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Public Hearing

Testimony

By

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University of Connecticut

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Raised Bill 80, *An Act Expanding Test Bed Authority at the Constituent Units of the State System of Higher Education*.

We applaud the Committee for raising this important legislation which expands the state's current test bed statutes. As many of you may know, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has the authority to test bed alternative energy technologies and the University has participated in that program. However, we are excited that this legislation would extend that successful program to all technologies or products connected with a research program at public colleges and universities. Current state purchasing statutes for public colleges and universities do not allow the constituent units to purchase and test out technologies or services that were developed on their campuses through research initiatives. Raised Bill 50 will allow public colleges and universities to test technologies affiliated with a campus research program. Doing so, would allow public higher education institutions to better assist faculty and students in commercializing new technologies, products and services. Tremendous economic benefits could be gained through this program as test bed technologies lead to the creation of new jobs and businesses.

To give you an example of why the bill is needed, I would like to share the following story. At the UConn Health Center, one of our incubator companies, Innovatient Solutions, was a health care software start-up funded by CI and located at the University's Technology Incubator Program asked to beta test their system at UCHC. The system was developed in response to new federal patient care requirements, and UCHC executives were interested in being supportive. However, UCHC IT staff, through a competitive process had to select an existing provider based on standard state purchasing requirements. Innovatient did not respond to the UCHC bid process because as a new firm with no track record or credit history (despite significant business and software development experience at established firms by the founders) was unlikely to be selected under the existing state purchasing statutory requirements.

Once Raised Bill 80 becomes law, University incubator companies like Innovatient Solutions will be able to test their products on our campuses and hopefully acquire a track record that will allow them to attract the needed venture capital and customers to make their businesses successful.

As always, I would like to thank the Committee for their continued support of the University of Connecticut. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide you with additional information.