



CITY OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
A Peace Messenger City

NEW HAVEN PEACE COMMISSION

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**TESTIMONY OF ALFRED L. MARDER
CHAIRMAN, CITY OF NEW HAVEN PEACE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

**I am Alfred Marder, Chairman of the City of New Haven
Peace Commission.**

**I am here to testify on behalf of the Commission in favor of proposed bill
No. 619.**

**We wish to congratulate this Committee for recognizing the immediate
importance of coming to grips with the issue of how does Connecticut deal
with the crisis of unemployment, with the dependence on manufacturing
killing machines when our people are demanding the end of war as a foreign
policy and the serious reduction of the military budget,**

**Let's dispense, at once, with the lame argument that this is a national issue./
You were elected to protect the good and welfare of the people in your
district. You are trying to cope with the results of national policies that have
established almost 1, 000 foreign military bases and spend over
one trillion dollars annually in KILLING MACHINES. We read every day that
our sons and daughters are fighting in cou
ntries whose location most of us are unaware. You are struggling with how
much to cut from the essential services, what classes to cut in our schools,
how to raise revenue from our struggling neighbors. There is no money
coming in to deal with these burning needs because we have made the
Pentagon the largest corporation in the world with a military budget that
devours 60% of the total Federal Budget.**

**I am here also representing the over 23 thousand New Haveners who cast
their ballots in the November elections for a resolution we introduced calling
for the reduction of the military budget, transferring those funds for human
needs; for conversion from military to civilian production. Over 23
thousand voted yes for the referendum, more than 50% of all who voted. We**



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are certain that if we were able to present this resolution statewide we would get the same results from your districts.

We are calling upon you to vote favorably for this legislation that would initiate a Commission, representative of all sectors of our community affected, to consider how to end our dependence upon the production of killing machines. This must include protection of the workers. The Commission would have the responsibility of examining new technologies, NOT DUAL USE FOR THE MILITARY, green jobs; infrastructure; the needs of our communities. Time is not on our side so there must be a deadline. Further, in order for this Commission to function, there should be an allocation of funds.

Since this issue has such wide spread affect on the people of our State, the proceedings should have broad public participation, especially from workers whose jobs and livelihoods would be affected. Their experience would provide insight into alternatives to military production.

We appreciate that this is a bold initiative, but we also recognize that these are volatile times that require innovative measures to deal with these pressing issues. We have gone to the people for their counsel. They are calling upon you to act!

Thank you.