



Waterbury Regional Chamber  
*driving business to business*

**STATEMENT OF JOHN DICARLO, PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
of the WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER before the COMMERCE COMMITTEE on S.B.  
1021 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR  
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY'S INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INSERTION PROGRAM.**

March 7, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the Commerce Committee, Thank you for receiving my statement as part of public input for this proposed legislation. The Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 13 towns in the Greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of nearly 1,000 members in matters of public policy and economic development, strongly supports Senate Bill 1021.

One of the bright spots in Greater Waterbury's economy is the manufacturing sector and the Chamber maintains a Manufacturers Council with corresponding programming for our members. The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) also operates a Waterbury office to assist this key segment of the region's economy. CCAT's Innovative Technology Insertion Program can be a significant help to these employers' efforts to grow their businesses and create jobs.

Small manufacturers remain under constant pressure to deliver high quality products quickly and affordably. Access to affordable advanced technology can play a major role in helping them stay competitive. CCAT's programs have provided manufacturers in our region new technologies that have been properly vetted, while helping transition them to their facilities with minimal disruption to production. This advanced technology is designed to further lower operating cost and lead-time, leading directly to business growth and expansion.

It is also important to recognize that substantial investments in growing local manufacturing have been made in the past several years. The state created one of three new Advanced Manufacturing Centers and programs at Naugatuck Valley Community College in 2012, while the City of Waterbury's new Career Academy High School will provide additional opportunities for local high school students to move forward in a career in manufacturing as well.

We are aware that the state currently faces significant fiscal challenges. However, SB 1021 represents an investment in a segment of Connecticut's economy that has proven its ability to not merely weather the current economic downturn but thrive and create new jobs for our workforce.

Sincerely,

John DiCarlo  
Public Policy & Economic Development Director, Waterbury Regional Chamber