

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING
BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

March 9, 2013

Jeffrey Dubins

11 Michelle Lane Mystic, CT 06355

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee:

I am Jeffrey Dubins and I am here to testify in support of HB 5460, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.

March 9, 2013

My name is Jeffrey Dubins. I am a highly experienced research scientist (over 25 years of experience) with a strong molecular biology background and a long list of scientific accomplishments. I had been a high performing scientist at Pfizer for over twenty years when my position was eliminated along with many other very fine scientists over the years. It took me ten months to find another position in this state and I am one of the lucky ones as many of my colleagues are still looking for work.

The job I recently got is at a small start-up company up on the UConn Health Center Campus as part of Connecticut Innovations Technology Incubator Program. The two co-founders started this company, Synbody Biotechnology, here in Connecticut because of this program. They came here from the Philadelphia area and they could have ended up in many places but they came here, to Connecticut because of this program.

There are many great scientists in Connecticut, and especially southeastern Connecticut, and they are leaving slowly but surely because they can not find work here. This is a huge intellectual loss to the area as well as an economic loss. But the longer you wait to bring in these types of companies the fewer people will be available to entice these companies to come. The time to act is now. For southeastern Connecticut to survive, never mind thrive, this situation MUST come to an end.

I am proof that incentives work to bring in biotech companies that will employ our scientists. I drive 68 miles each way for my job and would much prefer to be working closer to home in southeastern Connecticut.

I implore this committee to understand that even in tough economic times, maybe even especially in tough economic times, we must not be afraid to invest in our future. There is a difference between just spending money and investing money. There are many examples that you can not save your way to prosperity and that you can, if you invest smartly, invest your way to prosperity. This is a smart investment for our future. Our tax base is shrinking and this is an opportunity to change this situation.

In conclusion, I want it known that I strongly support this bill.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey S. Dubins