

March 4, 2013

Yue Jay Lin
University of Connecticut, 2015
Molecular and Cell Biology
71 Alice Street
Norwich, CT, 06360
(646) 797-1806

Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 840 An Act Concerning Next Generation Connecticut

My name is Jay Lin. I am a sophomore biology student at the University of Connecticut and I support Next Generation Connecticut. I believe this bill will create the Connecticut that my classmates and I want to live in. I don't know how this bill will impact the state, but I do know how it will impact my future.

While the University of Connecticut is filled with amazing professors and research opportunities, I have found the best learning resource to be my classmates. There is such a diverse body of students in the math and sciences. Everyone brings their own unique perspective into the classroom, which serves to broaden my own way of thinking.

To be great, we must surround ourselves with great company. Next Generation Connecticut will increase our student body in the STEM areas by forty-five hundred students, each bringing innovative and fresh ideas. The STEM Honors Program will make Connecticut more attractive for talented students across the nation, as well as the companies waiting to hire them.

To be frank, I want a good job when I graduate. Living in between the two casinos, I have felt firsthand the impact of a shrinking economy. I've seen my friends, neighbors, and even my own family lose jobs all at once. This is why I am studying in

molecular and cell biology. I want to learn the skills to make me marketable to the economy of tomorrow, the sustainable economy based on technology and innovation.

With the fall course selection approaching, it is clear that the science and engineering classes always fill up the quickest. We as students understand that the STEM fields are the future for America, and with your approval, the future of Connecticut. There is new life from the numerous start-up technology firms developing in the state. UConn recently made it into the top twenty public universities in the nation. Next Generation Connecticut will elevate UConn as the top science and engineering school and secure Connecticut as the premier home for STEM companies.

While the price may seem high, I argue that we cannot afford to remain where we are now. We must take this opportunity to renovate Connecticut and make it the leader for tomorrow. Please, make Connecticut the place you want to live. I certainly know it is where I want to be.

Thank you.