



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

STATEMENT OF JOHN DICARLO, PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR of the WATERBURY REGIONAL CHAMBER before the FINANCE, REVENUE and BONDING COMMITTEE on S.B. 1053 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TAX CREDITS.

March 11, 2013

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding 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 1053.

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. Substantial investments in growing manufacturing in our region 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.

A relatively small number of companies have been able to use the apprenticeship training tax credit program because it is designed, and therefore limited to, large C-Corporation business structures. Our region contains many small manufacturers that focus on high precision, high value production, not large volume, low value production. As such, most are S Corporations and Limited Liability Corporations and others are partnerships. Though they would gain an advantage, and hire more employees with the program, they move at a slower pace as a result of not being eligible for these tax credits. We have heard of this problem for the past several years and ask that the state incorporate much needed flexibility via SB 1053 to address these job creation needs and in doing so, make a worthy investment in our state's economic recovery.

Sincerely,

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