



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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**MEMBER**  
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 28, 2013

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 476, *An Act Requiring Input from Local Manufacturers in Developing Manufacturing Technology Programs at the Regional Community-Technical Colleges.*

Manufacturing is an essential part of the employment environment in Connecticut. It has a long history of providing our residents with good-paying and stable jobs. Additionally, these jobs produce products which provide for our everyday needs here in Connecticut and throughout the world.

This legislation would require input from local manufacturers to regional-technical community colleges as colleges develop and expand their existing manufacturing technology programs. This input will ensure that the programs offered are in step with manufacturing industries' demands. This is about helping to ensure that our students coming out of these programs are best equipped for the available jobs. This legislation will not only strengthen the manufacturing technology programs at our community colleges, but strengthen our manufacturing sector as a whole. I believe this legislation will direct more of Connecticut's residents into high-quality jobs, as well as provide a boost to our state's manufacturers.

I urge the committee to support this important legislation.