



State of Connecticut

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RANKING MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

February 19, 2013

Re: Testimony In Support of SB 185 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD OF STATE CONTRACTS FOR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Carlo Leone and Representative Jack Hennessy, the Honorable Vice Chairs Senator Gayle Slossberg and Representative Frank Nicastro, and the Ranking Members Senator Jason Welch and Representative Dave Yaccarino, and the entire membership of the Veteran's Affairs Committee for their time this afternoon addressing this issue.

There is no doubt that we are in tough economic times, and I would argue veterans returning home to the work force feel it worse than you think. Those who served now find themselves in a difficult transition. One of the most difficult aspects of leaving the service is finding a position that recognizes military experience in civilian positions. When there are plenty of jobs available, employers are more willing to look at veterans, who bring great attributes to an organization. Unfortunately, when jobs are scarce, employers are often looking for the person who has been doing the same job somewhere else. Even years after returning from service, some companies do not recognize the value of military experience. This puts the veterans at a tremendous disadvantage.

Supporting this bill allows us to give those who serve our country a little extra help. It especially helps those companies where veterans have harnessed their own entrepreneurial spirit and take the risks of owning their own business. I urge the committee to support this bill and support those who have been dedicated to this country. Thank for your consideration.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

Regards,

Dan Carter