



**Written Testimony of John Beauregard  
Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board  
In Support of  
Raised Bill No. 305 - An Act Concerning Funding for  
the "Dream It. Do It." Manufacturing Pipeline Program**

My name is John Beauregard and I am the Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) in Franklin, Connecticut. I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 305 to provide funding for the Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. program.

The Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) is a non-profit agency mandated through the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The EWIB works to identify the changing needs and resources of each of the 41 municipalities located in its service delivery area and develop a strategic consensus among community leaders to ensure that programs continue to meet the needs of local employers and job seekers.

At the EWIB, we know that one of Eastern Connecticut's most valuable assets is its dynamic workforce and we understand the pressing need to strengthen the skilled talent pipeline that supports our manufacturing companies. We believe the Dream It. Do It. program is a critical component of our sustained commitment to preparing the workforce for "knowledge economy" jobs of the future, which impacts Eastern Connecticut's long-term growth and prosperity.

Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. is working to change the negative public perception of manufacturing and enhance the skilled manufacturing workforce pipeline through local, collaborative networks. Through its strategic partnerships with organizations like the EWIB, Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA), Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer), middle and high schools and community colleges, Connecticut. Dream It. Do. It is taking the lead on creating awareness of career opportunities in today's manufacturing.

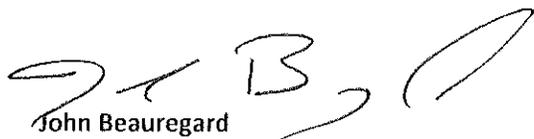
We were proud to partner with Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. to bring their exciting, unique "Manufacturing Mania" event to Three Rivers Community College in Norwich last October during "Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. Manufacturing Month." This event attracted nearly 100 local middle school students who participated in a day of hands-on learning about manufacturing and the rewarding careers it offers. Students saw new technologies like 3D printing in action, toured college's manufacturing lab, and learned first-hand from manufacturers about rapid advances in manufacturing and future career opportunities.

We witnessed the extraordinary collaborative effort that goes into producing "Manufacturing Mania" and were truly impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. staff. Under CCAT's leadership, Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. has achieved impressive results as they mobilize industry partners, educational institutions, and workforce development organizations like the EWIB to address the looming skilled labor shortage and create a positive public image of manufacturing among young students, parents, and teachers.

The EWIB has recently intensified its efforts to collaborate with its economic development, education, government, and industry partners to produce a coordinated regional response to workforce and economic challenges. We have demonstrated our commitment to the efforts of Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. by establishing a subcommittee focused on the initiative, and we will be partnering with CCAT and Dream It. Do It. to implement a new summer youth pilot program in the New London/Groton area with funding from the grant they received from the Motorola Solutions Foundation.

In summary, I support the passage of Raised Bill No. 305, which provides the resources needed to further the success of the Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. program and strengthen our region's investment in and commitment to manufacturing.

Sincerely,



John Beauregard  
Executive Director