Testimony of

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Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

before

Energy and Technology Committee

February 20, 2014

regarding

Proposed Raised Bill No. 5117

An Act Concerning A Clean Alternative Fuel Vehicle Procurement Preference

***The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. ("CCAT") offers this testimony regarding Proposed Raised Bill No. 5117 - An Act Concerning A Clean Alternative Fuel Vehicle Procurement Preference***

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) is supportive of this raised bill that would amend the definition of "clean alternative fuel" to include hydrogen. The Commissioner of Administrative Services would then be able to give a price preference of up to ten per cent for the purchase of motor vehicles powered by a clean alternative fuel, such as fuel cell electric vehicles. Hydrogen is an environmentally friendly fuel that can be produced locally and has the potential to reduce dependence on imported oil. In addition, hydrogen does not produce any air pollutants, only water vapor, when used in fuel cells.

***The use of alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, is consistent with the goals for Connecticut identified in the state's Hydrogen Roadmap and the state's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Deployment Transportation Strategy.***

The use of hydrogen will support the deployment of hydrogen-fueled vehicles, which will provide the following benefits:

- Retain and expand Connecticut jobs associated with production of fuel cells, fueling stations and infrastructure products including component sub-assemblies, original equipment manufacturing and long term product support;
- Attract automobile and bus companies to demonstrate and deploy hydrogen-fueled vehicles in Connecticut;
- Accelerate commercial readiness and commercial deployment of hydrogen technology and fuel cell vehicles in Connecticut;
- Reduce controlled pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reduce noise, and increase energy security and efficiency; and
- Position Connecticut to capture federal and other grant funding for research, development, demonstration and deployment of hydrogen infrastructure and fuel cell vehicles.

***Connecticut companies are currently involved with the development and manufacture of hydrogen fuel infrastructure and fuel cells.***

Connecticut's hydrogen and fuel cell companies have expertise in electrolysis systems to convert water to hydrogen fuel; fuel reformers for on-board conversion of conventional fuels to hydrogen fuel; combined heat, power, and hydrogen production; and the infrastructure to store and deliver hydrogen for transportation use. These industries will continue to grow with supportive policy.

***Conclusion***

CCAT is supportive of this raised Bill to promote the procurement and use of clean alternative fueled vehicles.

CCAT will make itself available to the Committee and legislature upon request to assist in the refinement of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INC.

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CCAT is a nonprofit corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs and businesses and, through collaboration with industry, academia, and government, helps companies innovate and compete in the global market. CCAT implements programs that improve the economic competitiveness of the region through solutions that lower energy costs and increase long-term energy reliability. CCAT undertakes energy planning, and promotes renewable energy, including advanced technologies and sustainable fuels such as hydrogen.