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Senator Reed, Representative Doyle, members of the committee: my name is Lawrence Black and I am CEO of Solar and Thermal Systems of Norwalk, CT.

I am here today in support of Representative Morin's proposed bill: An Act Concerning Test Bed Technologies.

I ask you to imagine this scenario:

A CT start up firm has conceived of and designed an alternative energy generation system that uses no fuel apart from the heat of the Sun and can generate electricity at 41 degrees North latitude (that's here in Hartford) for 6 cents per kilowatt hour retail without government incentives and produces no emissions. The systems lend themselves to scaling up to utility scale but can be mounted on large buildings as well.

Bear in mind that that price would amount to a breakthrough. All the research and development work is completed and major scientific organizations here in CT and nationally have vetted the company's results and agree with the numbers.

The systems use no exotic materials, manufacturing requires no advanced techniques and the jobs created are mostly for machinists.

Then imagine that the State of Ct has no mechanism to assist that firm.

One last thing to imagine: there is such a firm and it has such technology

The firm I'm talking about is Solar and Thermal Systems of Norwalk, Ct. We have approached the State of CT in a variety of ways over a period of years for funding assistance and have encountered one constant roadblock. In all of these approaches, we have worked with individuals in government, elected, appointed and permanent civil service, Chiefs of Staff, labor leaders, economic development directors, lobbying firms and on our own. Each entity has requested credentialed scientific vetting and we have we have complied with each request. Without exception, those independent vetting efforts have endorsed our design, agreed with our data and were very comfortable with our cost assumptions. Not that it mattered.

With each approach, we jumped through whatever hoop was put in front of us only to be told at the end of the process that the mechanism to fund us in CT doesn't exist.

The roadblock we encountered each time was the same: CT does not have a program or mechanism to offer assistance to firms who actually need assistance. They are only set up in assisting proven technology coming from firms already operating in the commercial marketplace. To my understanding, this means that the State is only interested in supporting firms who already have access to private funding through equity loans, sales factoring or what have you, in other words, the State is available to assist only if your firm is up and running and don't need assistance. This may come across as an oversimplification and in the time allotted for this forum, I understand why you might think that. I will gladly make myself available to anyone concerned for a more detailed recounting of our experiences.