

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-855

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF

Title: MANUFACTURING.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/21/2019

File No.: 370

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Commerce Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

S.B. 855 provides better coordination between state agencies and public and non-profit entities through a secretary of manufacturing focusing on the unique needs of this industry. This coordination and collaboration is to maximize resources for the state. Substitute language for S.B. 855 changes title of “secretary of manufacturing”, to “director of manufacturing”.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

- 1. Michelle Allinson, Vice President, Aerospace Alloys, Inc.:** Ms. Allinson testified that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.
- 2. Timothy K. Backus, President and CEO, Har-Conn:** Ms. Backus submitted testimony stating that a Secretary of Manufacturing will provide organization and sharing of ideas and will keep focus on the issues that impact manufacturers directly.
- 3. Mark Bliet, President, Bolton Works:** Mr. Bliet submitted testimony that he believes a secretary would further Connecticut interest in manufacturing and restore trust in a support system which “currently consists of randomly scattered resources without

accountability”. Mr. Blik stated CCAT received federal and state funding without accountability and believes a Secretary of Manufacturing would have prevented this.

- 4. Eric Brown, Connecticut Manufacturers’ Collaborative:** Mr. Brown submitted testimony that a secretary would add connection to private and non-profit businesses along with working together for strategic planning. He added that this position would create accountability regarding cost effectiveness.
- 5. Richard Cleary, Operations Plant Manager, ATI East Hartford Operations:** Mr. Cleary testified that a secretary position would allow for better laying out of plans between the state agencies and public and non-profit entities. He stated that this will maximize resources.
- 6. Chris DiPentima, President, Pegasus Manufacturing:** Mr. DiPentima submitted testimony stating that the manufacturing industry contributes significantly to Connecticut’s GDP and employment and is overall a growing industry but states that support for manufacturing is fragmented and inefficient. A Secretary of Manufacturing would be dedicated to working with the manufacturing community, academia and state agencies to create an overall plan to grow the industry.
- 7. John Dellalana, President, Rowley Spring and Stamping Corp.:** Mr. Dellalana testified that in smaller companies, many employees do a variety of different jobs in the organization and need help with getting connected to the right programs within the agencies. He stated that a Secretary of Manufacturing can revitalize Connecticut with the right experience and mindset.
- 8. Chris Gessay, President, Accu-Rite Tools & Manufacturing Co. Inc.:** Chris Gessay testified that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.
- 9. Rebecca L. Karabin, Co-President, Acme Monaco Corporation:** Ms. Karabin testified that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.
- 10. Lynette Nadeau, President, Southington Tool & Manufacturing Corporation:** Ms. Nadeau testified that a secretary would help manufacturers strengthen their ability to be competitive.
- 11. Paul Murphy, Executive Director, Aerospace Components Manufacturers:** Mr. Murphy testified that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.
- 12. Marc Nemeth, President, Jonal Laboratories:** Mr. Nemeth testified that this position would allow for a reliable point of contacts with valued information regarding manufacturing.
- 13. Kasey J. Plante, Director of Sales and Supply, Alpha Q:** Kasey Plante testified that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.

14. Carmen Romeo, President of Fascia's Chocolates: Testimony was submitted that a Secretary of Manufacturing would be a single cabinet level person who could help make sure existing, well-meaning programs that exist in multiple agencies are working to the benefit of manufacturers.

15. Santo Pirrotta, Sales and Marketing Manager, United Tool & Die Company:

Testimony was submitted that a cabinet-level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.

16. Jamison Scott, Executive Director, New Haven Manufacturers Association: Mr.

Scott submitted testimony in support of the bill and stated that this would be a full-time job and would make a big difference in meeting the challenges facing the industry.

17. Pedro Soto, President of Board of Directors, Aerospace Component

Manufacturing Association: Mr. Soto submitted testimony acknowledging the need for a Secretary of Manufacturing given the unique needs in the industry across all sectors of government. A single advocate at the state level would be cost effective and improve communication and focus on working together.

18. Tim Ulles, President & CEO, Numet Machining: Mr. Ulles testified that a cabinet-

level secretary would ensure a state-wide working partnership around public, private and non-profit entities.

19. Cyndi Zoldy, Exec. Director, Smaller Manufacturer' Association of Connecticut:

Ms. Zoldy testified that a Secretary of Manufacturing would help cut through the red tape and make a "one stop shop" for all things manufacturing related. She stated that having a secretary would encourage more participation in state programs and provide better outcomes. She also testified that this will give leverage to recruit outside companies to come to Connecticut to do business.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Gaia McDermott

Date: 4/2/19