

October 25, 2018

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Bill #5590, LCO 5986, Section 45

Dear Governor Malloy:

To follow up on the question that I (Lyle Wray) posed to you at the Go card roll out today, here is some background on the Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative that we hope would go on the next Bond Commission meeting.

In this region alone according to a recent survey of 50 employers done by Capital Workforce Partners there are 2,500 manufacturing vacancies and 1,500 healthcare vacancies open now and over the next several months. While great strides have been made under your administration in advanced manufacturing training, we must address these critical vacancies sooner rather than later.

As background, the 2018 General Assembly authorized \$50-million Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) supporting workforce training and pre-apprenticeships to place 10,000 individuals into jobs in key sectors in next four years. This initiative awaits Bond Commission action.

This initiative addresses strong demand for skilled workers in manufacturing by Electric Boat, Pratt and Whitney, Sikorsky and their suppliers, who must hire several thousand workers in next few years as well as other key sectors, including health care, where occupational demand is growing rapidly as Connecticut's population ages.

The Initiative focuses on work-based training and dual -track training system including recruitment and outreach, screening and assessment, transportation, stipends, workplace tools or equipment and pre-employment supports. So far 11 states have adopted the "dual track vocational" model based on the German training model covering 300 occupations.

In the initiative, priority will be given to underserved adult populations, including youths and Second Chance Returning Citizens. Focus will be on residents of Hartford, New Britain, East Hartford, Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwich, New Haven, Waterbury, New London, Groton, Eastern and Northwestern Connecticut rural communities. Two-thirds of the CAI funding will be for employer-driven apprenticeship and sector-based training.

One-third of the CAI funding would fully develop a “dual-track” for high-school students in pre-apprenticeship, early college and internships.

The program infrastructure is already there, so that Workforce Development Boards such as the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, Capital Workforce Partners and others with Industry Partnerships in place working with the Department of Labor and the Community Colleges and Community Based Training Programs with key local partners can scale up immediately to train and place individuals immediately.

We are aware of several issues that might impair moving forward with the Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative but given the current vacancies in advanced manufacturing and the ability to scale up our training efforts, we believe that this would be a major opportunity missed if action is not taken to move forward.

If there is anything we might facilitate consideration of this issue, please let us know.



Marcia Leclerc



Lyle Wray

Cc: Kurt Westby, Department of Labor Commissioner
Daryle Dudzinski, Director of Labor Operations