

OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK?

There are currently three bills pending in the CT State Legislature which, if passed, will only further cement our state's long-term, catastrophic dependence on a permanent war economy. As usual, they offer corporate subsidies that masquerade as job training programs.

Senate Bills 3 ("An Act Concerning Funding Submarine Jobs and Opportunities"), 444 ("An Act Concerning Advanced Manufacturing Training and the Capital Needs of the Submarine Industry"), and 535 ("An Act Establishing the Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative") would give our tax dollars to a company (General Dynamics' Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton), whose only customer is the military industry and whose only output is weapons of mass destruction.

Colleen Shaddox, chair of the Political Action Committee of Together We Rise Connecticut (<https://togetherwerisect.com>), an anti-discrimination organization based in East Haddam, testified before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on April 2nd against SB 535. She made the following key points:

"This legislation proposes to enrich a corporation at the expense of Connecticut taxpayers at a time when we are told that the state cannot afford to [provide] help to its neediest residents. It deepens Eastern Connecticut's reliance on the defense industry, which already gets far too many of our federal tax dollars and is vulnerable to political whim. Most importantly, it funds mass killing machines that threaten our children and our planet.

"The subs built at Electric Boat are part of the nuclear triad of air, land and sea-based launch capability...Nuclear weapons endanger each and every one of us... When the USSR ceased to be, some hoped that our endless stockpiling of these weapons would cease. But another threat – real or imagined – always seems to emerge to keep this multi-billion dollar industry humming...

"The bill's title implies that its main purpose is to establish apprenticeship programs. However, the majority of the proposed bonding, \$100 million, will go to a company 'engaged in the design,

construction and lifecycle support of submarines for the United States Navy,' in other words, to Electric Boat. Those funds can be used for a long list of purposes: land acquisition, machinery, planning -- for almost any purpose EB desires...Worse – we send our children to work building machines that could cause their annihilation. We must do better by our young people:

- ☐ Connecticut should create more pathways for young people to enter the biotech industry, which already has a strong base in the state.
- ☐ We should devote resources to our infrastructure, which will create jobs, make the state more attractive to business and improve convenience and safety for us all.
- ☐ The state should support workforce development in green industries and health care. The Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks health care as the strongest employment growth sector through 2026, with job growth predicted to almost double that of the number-two industry, professional and business services.

"... Raised Bill 535 takes money from taxpayers to make a gift to an extremely well-resourced corporation whose products threaten life on earth... at a time when the state is slashing essential services for its neediest residents and cutting aid to cities and towns."

(For the full testimony, go to:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/FINdata/Tmy/2018SB-00535-R000402-Shaddox,%20Colleen-TMY.PDF>.)

***Please contact your state legislators to oppose these bills!
Get contact information for them at
<<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>>.)***

RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR

Sunday, April 8, 2018

<http://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>

***Join the conversation any Sunday here at Broadway,
Park and Elm Streets, New Haven, 12-1 pm.***