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Dodd touts fuel cells in job-creation

BY KEVIN LITTEN REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — Democratic Sen. Christopher J. Dodd on Friday used the backdrop of Danbury-based FuelCell Energy's manufacturing plant here to unveil a proposal he said would help spur more widespread use of the energy-efficient technology nationwide.

Dodd said the proposal aims to correct a well-meaning initiative Congress passed in 2005 that included a mandate for federal agencies to make use of fuel cell technology, but fell flat because it was unfunded. Dodd is proposing \$100 million in funding that would pay for federal agencies to research and utilize fuel cells if solar or wind power could not be utilized.

The proposal could prove a boon to companies in the state such as FuelCell, Dodd said, which is tapping into demand abroad for energy efficient technology but has struggled to find a firm market in this country. He also cast green technology such as fuel cells as a remedy to the continuing decline of the manufacturing sector, which has caused economic turmoil in former mill towns statewide.

"I happen to believe that fuel cells are exactly what the country needs, what the world is looking for and what we have the capacity to produce," Dodd told the audience about 50 FuelCell workers.

"I see this industry and what you're doing here today as no different than what occurred in small mill towns 100 or 200 years ago when people asked themselves that same question: What can we produce that the country will need?"



From left, U.S. Senator Chris Dodd talks with Dan Brdar, CEO of FuelCell Energy, while posing for a photo in front of fuel cell towers at FuelCell Energy in Torrington Friday. Dodd was visiting FuelCell Energy to unveil his fuel cell plan to power the creation of new, 21st-century clean energy jobs for Connecticut.