

John Kornegay
Kamatics Corporation



Madam Chairperson (or Mister Chairman)
Members of the Committee,

I am John Kornegay, President of Kamatics Corporation and I am here to support SB 396, An Act Concerning funding for CONNSTEP, the Connecticut State Technology Extension Program.

Kamatics manufactures high-performance bearings and other mechanical products used primarily in aerospace and defense systems. Founded by Kaman Corporation in 1966 to develop improved bearings for its own helicopters, Kamatics now serves over 1,500 customers throughout the world. We are located in Bloomfield and employ 465 people. Kamatics has been able to grow because we have aggressively worked to improve our ability to compete in a global marketplace.

Connecticut has a proud history of manufacturing excellence, but Connecticut manufacturers are challenged today by competitors around the world with lower costs and less regulation. For us to succeed in this environment, we must learn new ways to compete. Most small and midsized companies do not have the resources to do this without assistance.

I am also a member of the CONNSTEP board of Directors, a position I was honored to have been offered and am happy to serve. I believe in the CONNSTEP mission to provide consulting and training to small and midsize manufacturers, enabling operational efficiency, increasing productivity and top-line business growth. As a board member, I have witnessed the intensity of purpose by which CONNSTEP fulfills this mission, the creativity that produces new, relevant services and the development of a solid strategic plan built around the needs of the manufacturing community. Providing additional support to CONNSTEP at this time, to enable them to aid more Connecticut companies, is a wise investment in the future, because it will enable more Connecticut manufacturers to provide well paid, stable employment to Connecticut citizens.

Kamatics is an example of a company that has benefited from participation in CONNSTEP training programs - seven of our employees have been trained through the Continuous Improvement

Champion Certification Program and are working daily with Lean Manufacturing methodologies to drive Kamatics toward world-class business status. Without Lean Manufacturing, we would not have been able to grow as we have over the past 6 years.

We have also attended the CONNSTEP annual conference – *The Manufacturers' Advantage* – to have access to the innovative thought leaders, international business experts and the opportunity to network with our peers.

Kamatics has partnered with CONNSTEP on the Machine Operators Skills Training Program – or MOST Program – hosting the training van and working with interns. The MOST Program, while in Connecticut, has trained over 50 unemployed job seekers in manufacturing technologies, advancing individual skill level and placing these candidates for permanent employment with area manufacturers.

Through the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, CONNSTEP is the Connecticut Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center and can leverage the collective expertise of a nation-wide network of 58 centers. Kamatics has been the beneficiary of this partnership and was able to gain access to consulting expertise from TechSolve of Ohio that led to a significant improvement in our machining capabilities and increased machine productivity.

I humbly and respectfully request the State of Connecticut grant CONNSTEP the additional funding they are requesting. CONNSTEP is a proven provider of positive economic results for small and midsize manufacturing businesses here in Connecticut. Without this support, I believe these manufacturers would be hard pressed to receive the kind of help provided by CONNSTEP, which has helped companies survive, create jobs and continue to thrive in a very competitive world economy.

Thank you for your time and attention.

John Kornegay

Kamatics Corporation

Bloomfield, Connecticut

(860) 243-9704