



Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

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**Testimony of Elliot Ginsberg**

**Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.**

**Before**

**Commerce Committee**

**February 10, 2009**

**Regarding**

**Proposed S.B. No. 579 - An Act Providing Funds for the Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration**

My name is Elliot Ginsberg, and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc (CCAT) which houses the Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration (CMSCI) in East Hartford. I am appearing in support of Proposed S.B. No. 579, specifically to support its provisions to extend assistance to Connecticut's general manufacturing sector, including the capacity and opportunity to assist the more diversified universe beyond the aerospace industry.

In the three years that CMSCI has worked with small and medium-sized manufacturers in the Aerospace and Defense (A&D) sector, we have seen significant improvement in key business metrics that directly relate to Connecticut's ability to compete in a global marketplace and retain technology-related jobs in the state. It is timely and prudent--given the need for our manufacturing sector to remain competitive in a global economy--to extend through the next budget cycle the robust assistance that has been developed for Connecticut's manufacturers.

CMSCI's support to these A&D manufacturers was assisted by the state's Aerospace and Defense Initiative (ADI), a \$2 million program which matched funds from manufacturers that sought to conduct improvement projects. The ADI resulted from House Bill No. 6727, introduced by this Commerce Committee and signed on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2005 as Public Act No. 05-276.

That initial funding produced dramatic results in transforming a significant portion of the state's aerospace and defense manufacturing sector. The \$2 million of recently-completed ADI funding supported 243 projects at 76 companies and generated more than \$8 million in private investment. In addition the funding created 700 new jobs and helped to retain an estimated 1,000 jobs.

Last year, the legislature extended the ADI program to all manufacturers through the Manufacturing Initiative (MI). And although the legislature also approved funding for that



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program, money for these critical, competitiveness-boosting programs was never appropriated for distribution.

The statistics and metrics gathered through CCAT's administering the CMSCI program form a significant backbone for any economic development effort aimed at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of Connecticut's vital manufacturing sector. CCAT applauds the intent of this legislation to further strengthen Connecticut's manufacturers. Results to date have brought international interest in Connecticut's manufacturing capabilities directly fueled as a result of providing top-line (sales) growth through exposure at the Farnborough and Paris International Air Shows.

This legislation, through support by this committee, will enable Connecticut manufacturers to continue to compete for global business.

CCAT is well positioned to continue executing this new undertaking, and, by virtue of our depth in technology leadership and synergy with our existing national and state-focused initiatives, we can bring even greater value to this endeavor. Leveraging our national programs for advanced laser applications, digital manufacturing through modeling and simulation for next generation manufacturing, our collaborative education initiatives promoting science, engineering, mathematics, and our relationships with the Community College System and state Workforce Investment Boards which have resulted in the award of three Federal Department of Labor grants, CCAT provides resources for helping Connecticut manufacturers solve current problems and position themselves for future growth. Further, through our assistance to entrepreneurs in advancing new technologies as well as our work in the diversification of manufacturing capabilities, CCAT is primed to bring new business opportunities to this state in the manufacturing sector.

In summary, Proposed S.B. No. 579 provides the opportunity to build on the valued success of this program to enhance Connecticut manufacturers' ability to meet escalating customer demands and compete in a global marketplace. The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology is eager to extend its success in administering the Aerospace and Defense Initiative to a general manufacturing initiative. CCAT believes that the funding for this bill will serve to strengthen a critical element of technology-led economic development and raise Connecticut to be among those states that show a coherent, state-wide initiative focused on manufacturing growth. All of us at CCAT are ready to participate.