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The City's Chamber of Commerce and the
Region's Economic Development Leader

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN SHEMO,
VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
METROHARTFORD ALLIANCE
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 579, AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE
CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING SUPPLY CHAIN INTEGRATION.**

**COMMERCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 579, *An Act Providing Funds for the Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration*.

The MetroHartford Alliance convenes the Economic Development Council, consisting of representatives for over 110 companies and the economic development leaders from the surrounding 34-towns of the metro Hartford region. It is our goal to enable the region to compete for jobs regionally, nationally, and globally, and to sustain its position as a prominent place to manufacture high quality goods.

While Connecticut has enjoyed a proud tradition of manufacturing, recognized throughout the world, our manufacturing base has suffered a precipitous decline. Some of this decline can be attributed to greater efficiencies in the manufacturing process, some to the cost of doing business in Connecticut, some to aging technologies, some to an aging, retiring workforce. Our ability to compete globally will be largely dependent upon our ability to create and embrace the very latest in technologies and apply these technologies to our manufacturing processes. CCAT was created with this ambitious goal in mind.

In a short period of time, the Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration has helped to create several hundred new jobs. The Center has leveraged new private investment by a factor of four. Its projects have had immediate positive impact on our state businesses and will continue to have significant impact over the long term. A modest state investment has supported an efficient model to create and retain jobs and has provided our state's manufacturers the means to compete in a challenging global business environment.

Our state's economy is dependent upon our ability to export goods and services out of our market area. Our manufacturing base needs the critical support provided by the Center. Thus on behalf of the MetroHartford Alliance, I urge your support Senate Bill 579.

John Shemo
V.P. and Director of Economic Development

Working to ensure that the Hartford Region competes as a
premier place for all people to live, play, work and raise a family