

#189 #50

## Testimonial

**Public hearing Testimony: Governor's Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Biennium Budget**

**February 28, 2011**

To: Members of Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut State Legislature

From: Ken Flanagan, Flanagan Industries, Glastonbury

Good Evening,

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding funding for the Asnuntuck Community College Manufacturing Technology Center. My name is Ken Flanagan, and I am the President of Flanagan Industries in Glastonbury, CT. I am here not only on behalf of Flanagan Industries, but as a citizen with personal and vested interest in Connecticut's economy and future.

Flanagan Industries is a privately owned, second-generation manufacturer of aerospace and power generation components for several OEM's and the Department of Defense. We have been in existence and operational in this state since 1951. We employ 107 full-time individuals at two facilities. I have been involved in manufacturing for 33 years and have had a relationship with Asnuntuck for almost ten years. Never has the manufacturing sector had more opportunities than at the present time to grow its workforce. It is somewhat painless for us to add floor space and buy specialized equipment and the software that operates these expensive machine tools, but the real challenge is to find the people and expertise to operate these complex assets. I can tell you without hesitation the greatest barrier to the existence and growth of manufacturing

is basically one dimensional and it's not globalization. It is finding our next generation workforce.

We need to employ people who possess the skill sets and aptitudes for the requirements of the workplace. As manufacturers, we recognize this and are more than willing to do our part and share in the financial support of workforce development. Apprenticeship and internship programs are an excellent path to a satisfying career in manufacturing. In fact, seven members of our current workforce came through Precision Manufacturing curriculum from the Community College level. We encourage and challenge the State of Connecticut and our legislators to do their part. Please keep in mind that our average workforce member is over 50 years old; there is a very serious concern among my peers and myself about the very makeup of the future workforce.

We must start somewhere, and Asnuntuck is poised with proven plans, experience, relationships, and a commitment from their private sector advisory committees to grow programs of workforce development. As an aside, I am a very active and proud member of the Asnuntuck Advisory Committee.

Asnuntuck's expanded Manufacturing Technology Center will provide an excellent foundation for long-term solutions to the major issue confronting our industry.

We in the private sector fully support State funding to Asnuntuck Community College. We fully believe that ACC's Manufacturing Tech Center will enable future generations of youth the opportunity of a manufacturing career path. Making the right funding choices are not always easy. However, I believe that providing a solid basis for long-term solutions to the major issue confronting our industry: that of Workforce Development is.

I ask that you support this much needed funding on behalf of Connecticut's youth and their future employer's.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth J. Flanagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth J. Flanagan

President

Flanagan Industries