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.

I have been involved in manufacturing for many 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. It is somewhat painless for us to add floor space and buy equipment, but the real challenge is the people. 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 support of workforce development. We encourage and challenge the State of Connecticut to do their part. Our average

workforce member is over 50 years old; there is very serious concern among my peers and me about the 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 a foundation for long-term solutions to the major issue confronting our industry: Workforce Development.

We in the private sector fully support State funding to Asnuntuck Community College for its Manufacturing Technology Center.

I am pleased to introduce Wesley Hipollito who is a graduate of the machine technology program at Asnuntuck. Wesley came to Flanagan through a series of hurdles starting with College Connections, then scholarship and internship, and eventually as a full-time member of Flanagan Industries.