

**STATEMENT REGARDING
RAISED SENATE BILL NO. 1021**

**COMMERCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2013**

**AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR AN
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INSERTION PROGRAM**

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce, and our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions, and municipalities. Our mission is to ensure that the Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, play, work, and raise a family.

The Alliance recognizes the difficult fiscal situation that we face in Connecticut and have stated our position that the Governor and the Legislature adhere to the Constitutional spending cap in adopting the budget for FY'14 and FY'15. Difficult choices will be required to honor the cap and to ensure that initiatives that support economic and employment growth remain appropriately funded. In that regard, we submit this testimony in support of Raised Senate Bill No. 1021 that will expand a pilot program to assist small and medium sized manufacturers through the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology ("CCAT").

CCAT, an Alliance investor, used the pilot funding to assist 20 manufacturers in paying for the time and materials needed to develop and implement more advanced solutions to milling a particular part or product. As a result, these companies reduced their production time by as much as 30-40%. In addition, they significantly reduced their energy costs. The combination of improved efficiency and reduced energy costs have made these manufacturers more cost competitive and thereby strengthened their capacity for revenue growth and for hiring additional employees.

Continued and increased funding of the pilot will enable CCAT to sustain and expand its support of the State's invaluable manufacturing base. For all of these reasons, we support Raised Senate Bill No. 1021.