

Testimony on S.B. No. 840 an Act Concerning Next Generation Connecticut

As a two degree graduate of the University of Connecticut (UConn) and after spending close to 40 years in the computer business, as a systems engineer, a sales executive, a divisional vice president and the Founder and Chairman of a “seed venture firm”, ironically named “Next Generation Ventures”, exclusively investing in CT technology companies, I feel abundantly qualified to testify in the positive on the imperative for the subject bill’s passage.

I am also a perfect example of what is wrong with our college educational system, especially at UConn, and the resulting impact on economic growth and vitality in this State. I spent most of my business career in New York at IBM and in Massachusetts at the Digital Equipment Corporation, now subsumed by the Hewlett-Packard Company. I joined IBM in 1970 and was “trained” in the computer sciences. At that time most colleges and universities didn’t provide the educational curriculum required by the industry. I am a product of the impact of the so-called “brain drain”. Connecticut needs to finally step up to the fact that it is “squashed” between two states that are “hot beds” of innovation and entrepreneurship. Although it will take a long time to reap the benefits of S.B. No. 840, it is never too late to start. In fact, it is long overdue. Very long!

Sincerely,

David R. Pepin,

Consulting Board Member to CT based “Start-ups”