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Public Hearing – Monday, March 4, 2013
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony Submitted by Scott S. Kraft
Presented by Scott S. Kraft

S.B. No. 840 - An Act Concerning Next Generation Connecticut

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding S.B. No. 840 - An Act Concerning Next Generation Connecticut. Phonon Corporation welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

Through its proposed 10-year, \$1.5 billion investment in the University of Connecticut's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, this bill will fuel Connecticut's economy with new technologies, patents, licenses, and high-wage STEM jobs. This bill calls for a major expansion of and investment in UConn—increasing enrollments in STEM disciplines, adding new faculty, and improving infrastructure. If enacted, the bill will support:

- A 30 percent increase in enrollment at UConn, to include more than 6,500 students and 200 new STEM faculty at the UConn Storrs and UConn Stamford campuses
- A 70 percent increase in engineering undergraduate enrollments
- A 47 percent increase in the total number of STEM graduates
- \$1.54 billion in bonding to construct new STEM facilities, build out teaching and research labs, upgrade information technology, and renovate and build additional housing and parking

Our company relies upon the University of Connecticut to develop highly skilled engineers who can help us innovate new products, continually improve our operations and compete in the global Defense and Space markets. Over the past decade, Phonon has hired 12 engineers from UConn, enabling substantial fiscal growth, development of new product lines and integrate process improvement plans. The result is an engineering core consisting of 70% UConn graduates. In order for Connecticut's technology-based companies like ours to grow and be competitive in the future, we look to UConn's STEM programs to provide the resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact scottk@phonon.com.

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