



University of Connecticut
School of Engineering

Office of the Dean

Testimony of Dr. Michael Accorsi

School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

Before the Commerce Committee on March 6, 2014

Regarding

Raised Bill No. 5271 – An Act Concerning Funding for the Advanced Manufacturing of Composite Materials in Connecticut

My name is Dr. Michael Accorsi and I serve as the Senior Associate Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Connecticut (UConn). My testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5271 focuses on the important collaboration between CCAT and the School of Engineering in advancing new manufacturing technologies within Connecticut. Elliot Ginsberg's testimony on this bill comprehensively describes the need to advance new technologies for manufacturing of composite materials within Connecticut as this relates to the long term economic vitality of Connecticut manufacturers. Despite the importance of this topic, it will not be repeated in my testimony for the sake of brevity.

The collaboration between a technology center, such as CCAT, and a university, such as UConn, provides a unique and potent avenue for workforce development and technology creation and transition. For many years, CCAT and UConn have been successfully collaborating to realize these benefits.

CCAT serves as a bridge for many UConn engineering students to the industrial world. CCAT personnel are frequently asked to teach at UConn particularly in our Management & Engineering for Manufacturing (MEM) program. UConn students routinely visit CCAT to observe advanced professional level manufacturing facilities. For our students, these classroom and hands-on experiences are invaluable and are truly shaping the next generation of manufacturing engineers in Connecticut. CCAT and UConn also routinely collaborate on federal proposals which create strong opportunities for research and development of new technologies. This process is critical for Connecticut to remain a leader in high tech industries.

Raised Bill No. 5271 is consistent with these goals and past accomplishments and will extend our collaboration to the vital area of composite material manufacturing. This level of collaboration will have a profound impact on the training of manufacturing engineers for the Connecticut workforce and on new R&D efforts focus on composite materials.

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