



Hearing of the Finance and Commerce Committees  
Testimony of Dirkson Charles, CEO, The Loar Group  
HB5465 An Act Concerning The CT Aerospace Reinvestment Act

Honorable Members of the Finance and Commerce Committees:

Good afternoon. My name is Dirkson Charles, and I am the founder and CEO of the Loar Group. Last year, we acquired a Connecticut company called AGC. At the time, I never imagined that we would be given the opportunity to be part of such an important event with regards to Aerospace manufacturing in the State of Connecticut. But here I am and I am very pleased to be testifying in support of the CT Aerospace Reinvestment Act.

First, AGC has a long proud history in Connecticut – we have been producing precision aerospace components since the 1930's for customers like United Technologies, Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky. Our company is based in Meriden and has over 100 employees. Our aerospace components and assemblies are created in a wide range of materials including high-temperature alloys, metal fabrications, and rubber and composite parts.

AGC's niche products and manufacturing processes were just part of the reasons why it only took us seven days of diligence to determine that AGC had to be part of our Group. The most important reason was that in spite of the financial difficulties that AGC was in at the time of our acquisition, not one of our customers indicated that they did not view AGC as an essential part of the Connecticut-based aerospace supply chain.

As I said, my company, Loar Group, acquired AGC last year. Loar Group consists of a small group of executives, each averaging over 25 years of aerospace experience. We have made four acquisitions in our two-year history because we continue to be excited about the future of aerospace and, with that, being part of the Connecticut aerospace supply chain.

Another reason that AGC was such an attractive acquisition is that Connecticut has a rich talent pool of engineers and aerospace workers. We invested in Connecticut when we chose to buy a company here and we have continued to invest since that day. And the agreement announced today proves to us that we were right. With the investments it is making, Connecticut is a true center of excellence for aerospace manufacturing. And the CT Aerospace Reinvestment Act will not only help UTC continue to invest in growing its engineering and research development base in the state, but will also help the hundreds of aerospace suppliers across Connecticut, just like my company.

It is these relationships with our customers like UTC and Pratt & Whitney that will ultimately guarantee our company's future growth and our home in Connecticut. Again I will say it – What is good for UTC is good for us.

Pratt & Whitney is heading toward an exciting time in its history, as it ramps up production on its revolutionary PurePower® engine and the F135 engine for the Joint Strike Fighter. And we are proud to be partners for that future.

That is why I am happy to be here to support this legislation. UTC and Pratt & Whitney continue to make investments in Connecticut, which ensures that cutting-edge research and development work will be done right here in our state. The ability to redeem the tax credits they've already earned to make investments here in

106 Evansville Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451

Phone - (203) 235-3361

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Connecticut will not only benefit UTC, but also all of its Connecticut-based suppliers. I commend UTC and Governor Malloy for crafting this agreement, which will make our state more competitive and create a home for the next generation of engineers and manufacturers. This can only strengthen Connecticut's standing as a center of excellence for aerospace manufacturing.

Thank you.