

March 10, 2014

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**Testimony on HB 5465- AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT AEROSPACE
REINVESTMENT ACT.**

Larry McHugh, President, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

Good Morning Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and Members of the Committee:

I appear before you this morning to offer the support of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce for HB 5465- AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT AEROSPACE REINVESTMENT ACT.

The Middlesex Chamber has over 2,350 members that employ over 50,000 people. Our Executive Committee voted unanimously to support the agreement between United Technologies and the State of Connecticut, at its March 3rd meeting.

This agreement is great news for Middlesex County and for the State of Connecticut. It ensures that UTC will remain anchored in our state, and that Connecticut will continue to be a world leader in the aerospace field. Pratt & Whitney's Middletown Engine Center is a major employer in the city of Middletown and in Middlesex County. This deal provides stability and is major boost for our state's economy.

I applaud Governor Malloy and UTC Chairman and CEO Louis Chênevert for their vision, their leadership, and their commitment to Connecticut. This agreement is not only important for Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky, UTC Aerospace Systems, and UTC Building and Industrial Systems, but for the many local suppliers that support thousands of jobs. The impact this deal will have on thousands of small and medium sized Connecticut companies cannot be understated.

In addition to serving as President of the Chamber, I am honored to also serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut. This agreement fits in perfectly with UCONN's strategic initiatives for the future, including a focus on science, technology, engineering and math through Next Generation Connecticut. This agreement will lead to terrific employment opportunities for Connecticut's best and brightest students.

I want to close by reiterating the support of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce for HB 5465. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important topic.

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