

NH
Metro



March 10, 2014

Commerce Committee

Senator Gary LeBeau
Representative Chris Perone
Senator L. Scott Frantz
Representative Gail Lavielle

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Senator John Fonfara
Representative Patricia Widlitz
Senator L. Scott Frantz
Representative Sean Williams

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and the Region's municipalities. Our mission is to ensure that the Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

I write to express the Alliance's strong support of HB 5465: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Aerospace Reinvestment Act. The passage of the HB 5465 is critical to the implementation of a significant set of economic actions proposed to be taken by United Technologies Corporation ("UTC"), the State's largest private sector employer and an international leader in the aerospace industry.

As announced last week by UTC Chairman and CEO Louis Chênevert in concert with Governor Dannel Malloy, UTC plans to invest up to \$500 million to upgrade and expand its aerospace research, development, and manufacturing facilities in Connecticut over the next five years. It also expects to invest up to \$4 billion in its major operating entities: Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky, UTC Aerospace Systems, and the United Technologies Research Center.

As importantly, under UTC's agreement with the State related to the proposal, UTC is incented to maintain and increase its current Connecticut employment levels, thereby ensuring stability for those working at UTC today and for those who will join its workforce over the next several years. These current and future UTC jobs provide compensation and benefits well above those of the average Connecticut position and, as significantly, strengthen the prospects for UTC's 2,500 Connecticut suppliers and their employees. In addition, the proposed investments and commitments will enhance UTC's ability to continue to attract some of the world's best scientific talent, individuals who are critical to sustaining UTC's leadership in aerospace innovation.

We also note that UTC's proposed investments and commitments will enable it to continue its critical leadership on a wide range of civic initiatives that underpin Connecticut's quality of life. UTC's monetary support of numerous arts, education, health care, and social services organizations, coupled with the volunteer support provided by its thousands of employees to those organizations, enable these invaluable entities to perform at the highest levels for the benefit of Connecticut residents and visitors.

For all of these reasons, we urge the Legislature to pass HB 5465 and forward it to the Governor for his signature. Please call me at 860-728-2277 if you have any questions or require additional information. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Trull", is written over a horizontal line.