

### Titanium as Connecticut's State Element

We have decided to choose a state element because by declaring an official state element, the Connecticut legislature will be highlighting the importance of science to the state and promoting the learning of science to its citizens, especially students. Also, to the best of our knowledge, we would be the first state to have a state element which shows that Connecticut is unique and a leader in recognizing the importance of science.

We have decided to nominate titanium for this honor. Titanium was chosen because of its importance to industry in Connecticut and its unique properties as a metallic element. Major industries in Connecticut such as manufacturing, aerospace and health care rely on titanium for many applications. Pratt and Whitney Aircraft is a company in our own back yard and their use of titanium in aerospace manufacturing connects this element directly to East Hartford.

We also know that in elementary school, kids learn about the national and state birds, the national anthem and the state flower, among other things. Why not allow them to take pride on our state's scientific achievements? By declaring a State element, you can send a message to everyone about the importance of learning science, and children will be introduced to learning science at an early age. This very fact will benefit them when they go on to middle and high school because science will be more familiar. We would be setting an example for other states to follow by fostering awareness for science.

We in our small club, and the State of Connecticut as a whole, can identify with titanium. Just like titanium, we might be small but we are strong, powerful and durable. Titanium as the state element will raise the importance and acceptance of science for generations to come while paying tribute to the science and engineering that not only contributes to Connecticut's economy, but raises the quality of life for all of its citizens.

Respectfully,

The East Hartford High School State Element Club