

Testimony of Roger Phillips, Instructor CT AeroTech

State Vocational Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 4200A

HB 6318 An Act Concerning Donations of Equipment to the Regional Vocational-Technical School System

Education Committee

February 23, 2011

My name is Roger Phillips. I am an instructor at the new Connecticut Aero Tech at Brainard Field in Hartford. We train aircraft mechanics leading to their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Powerplant certificate (A&P). We are a 2 year post grad program with a 2400 hour curriculum.

I am here to testify on the hold harmless proposal, House Bill 6318. The fact that the system cannot sign off on a hold harmless agreement is significantly hindering our ability to accept and obtain equipment donations.

Pratt & Whitney has repeatedly tried to donate another complete JT-9 high bypass turbo fan engine to the school. However, the company now requires a hold harmless agreement from the State to make the donation. P & W is a division of United Technologies, so the decision of the State not to enter hold harmless agreements will affect Sikorsky and Hamilton donations as well. As we all know, the State cannot afford the monies necessary to provide our students with these training aids. This equipment would not only allow us to meet minimum curriculum standards, but allows our program to provide equipment and experiences that students would otherwise not have. The State does not provide the equipment on one hand, and creates a bureaucracy that denies a company to provide it for free with the other.

Our program has long depended on donations from industry. We have obtained turbine engines, aluminum sheet stock, shop equipment, aircraft, and office equipment through donations from corporations such as Pratt & Whitney, Kaman Aerospace, Sikorsky Aircraft, Hamilton Sundstrand, Bombardier, CT Army Guard, and the CT Air National Guard. With budget constraints that never seem to go away, our program must continue to depend on donated equipment and materials to fulfill our curriculum requirements. We only ask the State to make it less cumbersome for these companies to make donations.

To put aviation costs into perspective, a modern large turbofan engine costs in excess of \$12 million. A modern corporate jet costs over \$30 Million. The State cannot afford the equipment that replicates these machines. Our students will benefit greatly from donations from industry that will allow our students to meet with career success in aviation industries that are vital to Connecticut's economy. The hold harmless bill removes an obstacle that prevents that education from taking place.

Thank you