

TESTIMONY

In Support of:
**H.4119 An Act relative to infrastructure investment, enhanced
competitiveness and economic growth in the Commonwealth.**
July 2, 2012
Christopher R. Anderson, President

Thank you, Chairman Joyce for the opportunity today to speak in support of key elements of this proposal passed unanimously by the House under the stewardship of House Economic Development Committee Chair Joseph Wagner.

In 2002, when the High Tech Council and our collaborating partners launched the state's **Science and Technology Initiative** to increase collaboration between industry, academia and government, the legislature responded with a \$100 million economic stimulus law in 2003 that established the **John Adams Innovation Institute** and Matching Grant Fund. Since then, state government has maintained its focus on science and technology.

In 2007, building on these positive results, we restated key elements of an economic strategy designed to establish a comprehensive, long-term, technology-based economic development plan that boosts our overall competitiveness and anticipates economic dynamics to help reduce the likelihood of repeating the frequent practice of instituting permanent tax hikes to solve temporary budget challenges (plan attached).

An element of that plan, called for a \$100 million commitment to the Matching Grant Fund, that since it was created by the Legislature, has produced over \$123 million in economic benefit for the Commonwealth from only \$17 million in state matching funds offered sporadically over a span of several years.

We urge you to support H.4119.

Although providing more restricted access to state support currently provided under the John Adams Institute Matching Grant Fund, we support the bill. However, to maximize the state's support for such support, the funds should include application to all research university partners, both public and private.

Massachusetts and New England Defense/Security Technology Economy:

In June 2012, in response to the Air Force Research Laboratory's Broad Agency Announcement for a Pilot Institute for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), the University of Massachusetts, the University of Connecticut, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, the Pennsylvania State University, and United Technologies Corporation submitted a proposal to establish a national institute having world-class resources in additive manufacturing (AM) technology. The combined capabilities and resources of these organizations position this team to successfully compete for the NNMI pilot institute.

This and similar future proposals will require support from participating states, and this specific initiative relates to Massachusetts and New England interests in advance manufacturing supply chain support for current and future federal program support (i.e. a myriad of Air Force, Navy and Army programs...).

Advanced Precision Manufacturing Inventory:

The High Tech Council's Defense Technology Initiative will also be conducting the first web-enabled "cluster asset mapping" project to identify within & cross state concentrations and linkages within New England to map cluster assets and export information related to advanced precision manufacturing businesses in New England using the most recent annual information available. Query functions would allow viewing of information on advanced precision manufacturers by industry sector and sub-sector, employment, and by geographic location.

Thank you.

About the Massachusetts High Technology Council:

The Massachusetts High Technology Council was formed in 1977 by high tech CEOs whose mission was to help make Massachusetts the most competitive state in which to create, operate, and expand high tech businesses. That remains our mission today. Council members employ hundreds of thousands of skilled workers in all of Massachusetts's key technology sectors, including computer hardware, life sciences, software, medical products, defense technology, semiconductor, and telecommunications.