

From The House

By State Representative Matt Ritter

Dear friends and neighbors:

The legislature recently approved a deal to keep manufacturing giant Sikorsky Aircraft in Connecticut until at least 2032. This is great news for Connecticut's economy and job growth in the state.

In addition to expanding Sikorsky's workforce to 8,000 employees, the deal will pump billions of dollars into Connecticut's economy over the next 16 years. In exchange, the state will provide up to \$220 million in financial incentives over the course of the deal.

This agreement will truly benefit all of Connecticut, not just towns with residents employed by Sikorsky. Sikorsky currently works with 302 Connecticut-based suppliers. More work at Sikorsky means more jobs at suppliers across the state as they work to meet the increased demand.

Under the deal, Sikorsky has agreed to:

- Build nearly 200 CH-53K King Stallion Helicopters – the largest maritime helicopter in the world - in Connecticut for the United States Navy until at least June 2032.
- Keep the Sikorsky headquarters in the state and maintain its Stratford site as a primary production facility for its government-based helicopter business.
- Retain and grow its full time employment in Connecticut to more than 8,000.
- Nearly double its spending of \$350 million per year with local Connecticut suppliers throughout the state.

Between 2016 and 2032, these investments will drive an estimated \$69.2 billion into Connecticut's economy and support approximately 24,600 jobs directly and indirectly. Growing our manufacturing industry is one way that we can improve Connecticut's economic outlook, and the legislature is committed to supporting the industry's success. In 2016 we passed legislation promoting manufacturing education initiatives to ensure our workforce is ready to meet growing demand, and job training will continue to be a priority in 2017.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this or any other issue in the future. I can be reached at the Capitol at 860-240-8500, at Home at 860-519-5685 or by email at matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov.