



The Honorable Ann H. Rest
Chair, Senate Taxes Committee
Minnesota State Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 5, 2025

Chair Rest, & Members of the Senate Tax Committee:

We write today in support of the Aerospace and Aviation credit – Senate File 519 (Hauschild, McEwen, Farnsworth).

This provision creates a \$5,000 per year nonrefundable income tax credit for newly hired aerospace professionals from a qualified two or four-year accredited engineering or technology undergraduate or graduate degree program, an associate of applied science degree program, or a career technical program.

This important provision applies to workers employed full-time by or contracted with a qualified employer on a full-time basis on or after January 1, 2025, and was awarded an ungraduated degree, graduate degree, technical degree, or certificate in a qualified program by a qualified institution within one year before or after beginning employment.

As you may know, Cirrus Aircraft leads the world in General Aviation Aircraft Manufacturing. We employ over 1,500 aerospace professionals. However, we struggle to recruit to fit our growth projections. We currently have close to 200 openings in Duluth, Minnesota. Attracting workforce is difficult to the region and keeping it even more so, while similar states like Kansas have this same law. Cirrus struggles to compete in this national market for workforce and this bill will help Minnesota and Cirrus attract more aerospace workers to our state and keep them. Finally, the bill itself provides opportunity for newly educated Minnesota workers in this difficult inflationary environment, where cost of living is high, childcare is expensive and just getting on your feet is cost burdened.

We appreciate you hearing this bill and respectfully ask that this provision be included in a 2025 Omnibus Tax Bill.

Respectfully,

Dante E. Tomassoni

Dante E. Tomassoni
Director Corporate Affairs
Cirrus Aircraft

CC: Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Governor Tim Walz