



Suburban Stationers

OFFICE PRODUCTS

Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Caruso and members of the committee-

I am speaking in support of HB-5988, HB-5993 and SB-1126.

My name is Raymond Bourret. I am the co-owner of Suburban Stationers in Middletown. We have sold office supplies to state agencies under numerous state contracts off and on since 1986. We employ 30 people in Connecticut and have revenues of 9 million dollars a year which is very small in the office supply industry. We are the largest independent office supply company in our state, but we still do only 6/100ths of 1% of Staples volume. Pretty small!!!

We are able to compete logistically and provide very competitive prices because of our efficiencies and the knowledgeable, conscientious, tax-paying Connecticut employees who work in our company. We would very much like to grow our business with the state and other business concerns so that we can add jobs, but we are held back by the cap of \$10 million that was enacted in 1993, (14 years ago). During that time inflation has increased by 48.5%.

There are many other companies in the same situation that could be adding 100's of new jobs to our state economy.

When our company grows and adds jobs in the Middletown area, other local communities benefit as well. We support Connecticut manufacturers like Bic in Milford, Walker Board in Glastonbury, SP Richards Co. in East Windsor, Pilot Pen in Trumbull and Acme United in Fairfield while Staples and Office Depot are trying to import these same goods from the Far East.

I encourage you to pass any of these bills to adjust the maximum size of a "small business".

Bill SB-1126 sets maximum by industry

HB-5988- \$ 18 Million max

HB-5993- \$ 15 Million max

Raymond Bourret