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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO.Labor Committee
General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

FAX No. 860-240-5306

RE: PROPOSED S.B. No. 171

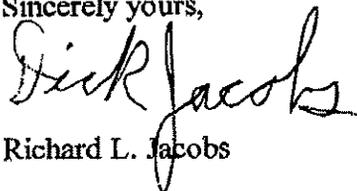
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In speaking before your committee yesterday afternoon I failed to talk in favor of S.B. No. 171.

This bill addresses the situation where a respondent unreasonably delays payment or unreasonably contests a claim. Present law compensates the lawyer for the work the lawyer has to do in order to get the injured worker paid. The injured worker, however, to redress the wrong gets only interest at twelve percent per year on the money unreasonably withheld. In some of these cases the worker suffers terribly—going many months, or even longer, with no money.

It is right that the lawyers should be compensated, but it is wrong that the injured workers for their deprivation and suffering get only twelve percent interest on the money owed.. S.B. No. 171 would give the injured worker the same amount as the lawyer gets. It would serve as an incentive for respondents to act fairly.

Sincerely yours,



Richard L. Jacobs