



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
IN SUPPORT OF  
HB-5636, AAC RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR DISPLACED RETAIL BUSINESSES AND  
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING STRUCTURES  
BEFORE THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MARCH 3, 2008

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) supports HB-5636, An Act Concerning Relocation Assistance For Displaced Retail Businesses And Outdoor Advertising Structures, which would benefit small businesses who are subjected to a government taking by recognizing and providing compensation for lost good will.

A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business advocacy association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of small- and independent-business owners and over 25,000 of their workers involved in all types of retail business, industry and services. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$350,000. In short, NFIB represents the small, "Main Street", "Mom and Pop" business owners from across our state. On behalf of those small- and independent- employers in Connecticut, I urge you to support HB-5636.

Ever since the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. the City of New London*, NFIB has been on the forefront of the eminent domain issues, fighting alongside small-business owners and homeowners to prevent their property from wrongful takings and seized for private economic development. Here in Connecticut, support for restricting the government's power of eminent domain resonates soundly. Results of NFIB's 2007 Connecticut State Member Ballot indicate close to 90% of members favor restricting eminent domain powers to prevent private property from being seized for private commercial enterprises for the purposes of economic development.

For some time, small businesses have been recognized as the engines of growth for the state's economy. In order to continue this growth, small businesses must be compensated for lost good will when the government exercises its power of eminent domain. Small businesses and small-property owners are often disproportionately impacted by such takings and deserve compensation for the benefits that accrue to a business from its location, reputation for dependability, skill or quality and any other circumstances.

NFIB suggests, however, that HB-5636 be amended and expanded to apply to ALL impacted businesses, not just those in the retail sector.

As small businesses, we provide a direct benefit to the economy. As entrepreneurs, we risk our capital and other resources to launch and grow our business and provide jobs to Connecticut citizens. Compensation for and protections from government takings should extend to all businesses.

NFIB therefore urges lawmakers to pass HB-5636. If you have any questions, please contact me at the numbers provided. Thank you.