Re: H.B. 5819

February 5, 2008

New Haven Independent Business Network

Dear State Legislators,

Small Business in Connecticut has been devastated by the skyrocketing costs of energy in our state. The recent outrageous increases for electricity are forcing many of us to close our doors. Restaurants, small groceries and small retail and manufacturers are especially being damaged.

In the last legislative session we expected our representatives to address this situation with substantive reforms to reign in the costs, and establish long-term solutions to begin to control the runaway energy market.

We also see the clear evidence of the dangers to our planet and our children's future if our society does not find better ways to provide basic energy needs. We believe this requires new thinking and bold initiatives.

While we realize this is a daunting task, we were disappointed to see that nothing came out of the last session that addresses the problems created by the de-regulation of the late 1990's and the dwindling reserves of fuels worldwide.

Recently New Haven and Hamden City Councils passed resolutions supporting the reform demands of the citizen advocacy group "Fight the Hike" for rate relief for consumers and small businesses, beginning the process of re-regulation, promoting conservation and significantly investing in clean renewable energy generation, as well as moving towards the creation of publicly owned utilities.

We urge you to look closer and support these demands and begin the process of truly renovating our energy system in Connecticut. Without controls over the wholesale energy market, without a significant move away from fossil fuels, and without a significant effort to protect the public and small businesses our state will continue the slide towards a serious economic recession.

We urge you to act and work with all parties to create substantive legislation in the coming legislative session in February to address the core issues related to energy generation, distribution and consumption.

Sincerely,

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