



State of Connecticut

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Good afternoon Representative Nardello, Senator Fonfara, and members of the Energy and Technology committee. My name is Diana Urban and I am the State Representative from the 43rd District, Stonington and North Stonington. I am here today to testify on HB 6127, An Act Concerning Utility Deposits for Business Customers.

It is imperative for us, as legislators, to find ways to be helpful to our small businesses. And it is particularly important during this recession.

It is a known fact that small businesses are the economic engine of our economy creating in the realm of 90% of our jobs. Small businesses create a diverse entrepreneurial economic web. We all know an amazing success story that began as a small or micro business. My favorite is Steve Jobs and Apple Computer.

But even more important, these small business owners are the backbone of our communities. They are the ones that provide items for PTA and every other charity under the sun for silent auctions to raise money, they coach little league and other youth sports, serve on Town boards, etc And they will not reorganize off shore for tax purposes or out source jobs to other parts of the world.

Often times the utility deposit required when starting or moving a business and the length of time it is held can mean the margin between success and failure. These entrepreneurs take a risk opening their business and I believe that we can help them by examining the amount and time of the required utility deposit.

Clearly the way to do this with the most accurate information is through the contested case process that is laid out in this bill. I urge the Committee to vote HB 6127 favorably out of Committee.

Thank you.