

Jason Calabrese
860 Hamilton Ave.
Watertown, CT 06795

To Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Jason Calabrese I am owner of www.thetraveldiscountcenter.com . I am a small business owner and have been in business for over 15 years.

I am writing to voice my opposition to tax bills before you which would seriously damage Connecticut's economy and our ability to compete and succeed here. These proposals would substantially increase our business costs and make it much harder for us to continue doing business in Connecticut.

Specifically, I am opposing:

HB-6349 An Act Concerning The Sales Tax On Services.

HB-6350 An Act Eliminating Exemptions From The Sales And Use Tax And Lowering The Rate Of Such Tax.

The bottom line is everyone seems to be overlooking the fact that Governor Rell's budget proposal is relying on \$2 Billion in Federal funding from the stimulus package that is presumably a one-time payment, as we can not afford to continually have stimulus packages. So that revenue is going to have to be replaced somewhere, the smart thing to do would be to use some of that money to *relax* excess business taxes so existing companies can compete better, improve their balance sheets, be able to hire more people, and expand our economy to make up for the shortfall that there will be next year.

We urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason Calabrese