



## CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
CONCERNING SB-808  
AA INCREASING FEES AND FINES  
BEFORE THE  
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

*The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business advocacy association, respectfully submits the following comments concerning SB-808, An Act Increasing Fees And Fines:*

Small business owners across Connecticut are aware of the dire budget situation faced by the state in both this current fiscal year and the next two fiscal years and are willing to play a role to be part of the solution. Small businesses recognize that there are certain "costs of doing business" in Connecticut, however, they are also greatly concerned that any proposal which increases fees and fines and imposes additional financial burdens on business must be carefully scrutinized and viewed in the context of the entire budget balancing solution. In other words, if the legislature increases fees and fines, they must not take other harmful and regressive measures such as further taxing productivity and income.

Additionally, small business asks the legislature to consider the fact that fees and fines are often directly tied to unreasonable and burdensome regulations. For small business in particular, there is a very high cost of compliance attributed to complex regulatory schemes. Failure to comply, even in a technical sense, can often result in huge fines from the state. Therefore, any discussion of increasing fees and fines must be considered in the larger context of regulatory reform and relief.