



**Testimony
Robin Wilson
President & CEO
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
February 23, 2009**

- **HB-6498 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALES AND USE TAX RATE.**
- **S.B-837 - AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS FEES.**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *opposes HB-6498 and SB-837*, which will increase sales taxes and numerous licensing, permit and registration fees.

Increasing taxes and fees will have a long-term negative impact on the state's economic recovery. We therefore urge lawmakers to look at controlling the cost of state and local government in order to keep tax policies competitive with other states. While we understand that the state is attempting to address a staggering budget deficit, lawmakers cannot lose sight of the fact that the state is also facing a deepening recession. Increasing fees and taxes will simply accelerate our economic decline by making it impossible for Connecticut's small and midsize employers to add jobs and expand operations.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 800 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.