CASIA
Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association

TESTIMONY
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CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION
(CASIA)
BEFORE THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2009

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) ***opposes*** **HB-6349 and HB-6350, which extend the sales tax to numerous services in Connecticut and SB-808, which increases licensing, permit and registration fees.** Each of these bills will significantly increase costs for Connecticut businesses, making it very difficult for us to rebound from this recession.

Increasing the permit, license and registration fees our industry already pays will not help put more people to work. It will also not address the long-term structural budget deficit facing Connecticut. Unless the cost, size and efficiency of state government is significantly reformed, we will continually find ourselves in this situation down the road. State government must begin to work within reasonable budgetary constraints. Otherwise, the state has no recourse but to increase taxes on individuals and businesses, which will only undermine our economic recovery.

We urge lawmakers to refrain from adopting any new taxes. Instead, Connecticut needs to develop and implement a sustainable economic policy that supports the growth of new jobs.

CASIA, a statewide trade association established in 1974, is comprised of alarm companies working together to protect lives and property through the responsible use of electrical security and fire alarm systems. Our members are professional and technically skilled and experienced in integrated systems for intrusion and fire systems, closed circuit television, telephone, intercom, home theater, access control systems and computer wiring.