



H&T Waterbury

H & T Waterbury, Inc.
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Date: February 6, 2009

Subject: Tax measures before the Finance Committee

My name is Ronald Turmel, Vice President and General Manager at H&T Waterbury, Inc. (H&T). H&T is a manufacturer of deep draw metal stampings for the Consumer Battery industry located at 984 Waterville Street, Waterbury, Connecticut. We employ 125 people, primarily in manufacturing related activities.

I am writing to voice my opposition to several 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, we are opposing: HB-6348, HB-6349, HB-6350, SB-807 and SB-815

From my perspective, of particular concern is HB-6350 which eliminates most exemptions to the state's sales tax, including for manufacturing machinery and equipment. The sales tax exemption helps to make more affordable manufacturing equipment and spare parts used in our production. Placing a sales tax on these items will result in our delaying the purchase of equipment/spare parts until parts break, thereby hurting our ability to deliver products to market. In addition, eliminating the exemption will put Connecticut companies at a disadvantage to manufacturers in other states who do not place a sales tax on manufacturing equipment.

We as a Connecticut Manufacture are doing our part to remain complete by implementing "Lean" Manufacturing practices. Lean Manufacturing focuses on eliminating wastes and non-value added actives.

If the State of Connecticut continues to push mandates like HB-6348, HB-6349, HB-6350, SB-807 and SB-815 on our business it will only be a matter of time before we are forced to move our business off shore.

We urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut. In my humble opinion, the manufacturing sector is unique in that it produces wealth for not just it's owners and employees, but indirectly within the community as that wealth is further distributed in the form of payment for services, property taxes, food, clothing etc.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Turmel

Vice President and General Manager