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Marc T. Giles
President and Chief Executive Officer

February 5, 2009

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 3700
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB-6348, HB-6349, HB-6350, SB-807 and SB-815. These tax bills, which CBIA reports are before your Committee, would significantly damage Connecticut's economy and greatly hinder Gerber's ability to compete successfully. If passed, these bills would make it more difficult for Gerber and many other companies to sustain operations in Connecticut.

As the CEO of Gerber Scientific, Inc., I have a responsibility to our stockholders to maximize the value of the Company. Like most CEOs, I also feel a responsibility to all of the Company's stakeholders. That sense of responsibility intensifies during difficult economic times. Needless to say, both sets of responsibilities are more challenging to fulfill in our current economy.

We are working very hard to keep our workforce intact, both because we want to be prepared to come back aggressively when the economic environment does improve, and because we know it would be devastating for our employees to lose their jobs. We have accelerated vacation, utilized the State's Shared Work Program, and cut executives' base pay. I had hoped that during this session, the legislature would focus on helping companies like ours secure employment for Connecticut workers.

I understand that your budget, like ours, is under pressure. However, increasing taxes on Connecticut businesses will only lead to more unemployment, which in turn, will put more pressure on the State government's budget.

We ask you to look long and hard at other alternatives before putting more Connecticut companies and their employees at risk. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc T. Giles', written in a cursive style.

Marc T. Giles
President and Chief Executive Officer