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Marshall R. Collins & Associates

TESTIMONY OF

*THE CONNECTICUT MESSENGER COURIER ASSOCIATION
THE CONNECTICUT COALITION OF PROPERTY OWNERS
THE GREATER DANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE LUMBER DEALERS' ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT
THE MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

BEFORE THE
LEGISLATURE'S LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
4:00 PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009
ROOM 1E, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

Good afternoon. My name is Marshall R. Collins. I am appearing in my capacity as Counsel for Government Relations for the aforementioned six organizations (the "Organizations"). Collectively they represent more than 4,000 employers of approximately 130,000 men and women in Connecticut.

SB 113 AAC Unemployment Compensation. This proposal would allow individuals collecting unemployment compensation ("u/c") benefits, which are 100% funded by employers, to work part-time without reducing their benefits. SB 113 provides a disincentive for employees to return to full time work. U/C was intended to help those individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own. If an individual chooses to work part time, why should they then receive u/c benefits? What incentive is there for an individual to return to work full time if they can receive the same amount of income by working part time and collecting u/c benefits? At the same time, if the bill would become law, would the employer's charge for the layoff be reduced when the individual takes part time work? The Organizations oppose the bill.