



The Voice of Small Business®

CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
OPPOSING
SB-369, AAC A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR REAL PROPERTY TAXES
BEFORE THE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business advocacy association, respectfully submits the following comments opposing the aforementioned bill:

In the 2008 edition of "Small Business Problems & Priorities" by the NFIB Research Foundation, "Property Taxes" ranked as the 4th greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 6th position in 2004. This problem is deemed as "critical" by 25 percent of small business owners. In addition to real property taxes, small business owners are also taxed on personal property including business vehicles, business inventory, equipment, financial assets, etc., adding to the total property tax burden.

Taxes that are too high, and a system that is ridiculously complex, stand in the way of small business growth. NFIB provides small businesses tax help by fighting for tax relief on several fronts at the state and federal levels because we know that a complex tax structure and multiple layers of burdensome taxes are among the top concerns of small business owners. Unfortunately, SB-369 does nothing to alleviate the overall property tax burden faced by small businesses and in fact will only result in a shifting of the tax burden onto businesses and commercial property.