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My name is Lawrence Lathrop and I have owned Lathrop Vending for 20 years. We employ 21 full time and 2 part time employees. The present economic situation has affected us all with factory shut downs, layoffs and the general lack of spending by our customers. We experienced a loss in revenue when the school nutrition bill was past. We project a \$14,000 annual loss in revenue if the bottle bill is expanded. A loss in revenue reduces our profitability. As business people we can only react by cutting expenses, raising prices or eliminating positions.

If raised Bill No.6424 is passed, Lathrop Vending estimated savings would be \$48,000 annually. The potential benefits of this savings to Lathrop Vending and the State of Connecticut are:

- Helping us maintain our present level of staff.
- Help us lift our wage freeze, giving our employee more spendable income.
- Help us invest in vehicles, equipment and technology
- Help us maintain our profitability and stay solvent

The vending industry is struggling with many issues such as gas prices, health care, manufacture price increases and the downturn in the economy. Our goals are to maintain our employees, pay them a fair wage and offer health care benefits. The passage of Raised Bill No. 6424 would be a giant step in maintaining these goals.