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February 6, 2009

TO: Members of the Labor Committee

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to HB-6187 which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal could substantially increase our costs and will force me to reevaluate the other benefits we provide to our employees.

I presently allow 3 paid sick days per year on a "use it or lose it" basis. Accruing sick days is not permitted. This turns out to be 3 days off with pay whether the employee is actually sick or not. The presumption that if an employee is sick and doesn't get sick days that he will come to work and infect others is not necessarily true. The fact is that if you have to pay them for sick days not taken, then they will surely come to work when they're sick to get the extra pay.

It is tough enough doing business in this State that companies don't need our ineffective legislature telling me how to run our business. All the citizens of Connecticut would be much better off if the State did something to promote economic activity and help business instead of what is actually happening. We are losing businesses especially manufacturing at an alarming rate and I don't see anything being done to stop it. The tax base is shrinking and that means we'll all have to pay more which will of course hasten the exodus from the State.

If this law passes and my costs go up I'll have to look at either laying people off or modifying my vacation policy or health benefits.

I urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in our State.

Sincerely,

Curt Rutsky  
President