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February 3, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Morton Reich and I own and operate two manufacturing companies in Essex, CT: Goal Sporting Goods, Inc. which manufactures athletic field equipment and Apco Products a wire fabricator/job shop. We employ more than 50 people.

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees. Given the high rate of doing business in our State, and notwithstanding the significant downturn in the economy, this proposal greatly impacts our ability to remain viable.

HB-6187, if enacted, will create a burden beyond reasonable in the cost of doing business. Our company prides itself on building relationships based on fair and equitable standards which we apply equally to our customers, our vendors and to all those employed. Small business and the Legislatures' support of small business is the way out of economic distress. Please turn your attention to finding ways to help the small business owner and you will find success in your role as a Representative of the people of Connecticut.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut and I again encourage you to find ways to support and help business flourish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morton F. Reich".

Morton F. Reich  
President