



February 4, 2009

Dear Members of the Labor Committee,

My name is Dianne Veley and I am writing to you today on behalf of my employer, The Siemon Company located in Watertown.

We are a family owned business which began in 1903 in Bridgeport and moved to Watertown in the 1950's. We employ over 350 people in Connecticut and an additional 400 people globally. We have deep roots in the community and have no plans to leave Connecticut for another domestic location. However, we find ourselves in a frustrating position of frequently having to write to our state legislators about opposing legislation which is detrimental to our ability to competitively compete in a global environment and to continue to employ Connecticut residents.

I am writing today 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. While I can appreciate the economic benefit that this bill may provide to individual employees, I believe that it is shortsighted in providing the most economically responsible business environment for all employees. If Connecticut businesses are forced to offer such mandated benefits, we will be forced to make changes to our overall benefit offerings and staffing needs which would have a far bigger impact on the individual employees than what this bill would provide to them on its own.

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

Sincerely,



Dianne R. Veley
Global Human Resources Manager
The Siemon Company

cc: Carl N. Siemon, President, The Siemon Company

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