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To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Jack Traver Jr., President of Traver IDC, a manufacturer, distributor, and electrical contractor located in Waterbury, CT. We have been doing business in Waterbury for 70 years and employ approximately 50 employees. In addition, I currently serve as President of the Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, Inc. The SMA is a trade association with about 120 members representing 6000 employees.

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.

Our company, as well as many of the members of the SMA, is barely keeping our head above water. If we manage to make a profit in any given year, it is less than 1% to the bottom line. That being said, the average manufacturing wage in CT is nearly \$70,000.00. These are the best paying jobs in the entire state and the legislature needs to do everything possible to preserve each and every one of these jobs in CT. Although the manufacturers make up 6% of the corporate population, we contribute 25% of the corporate tax revenue.

The effect of this "paid sick time" bill would be devastating to us and the manufacturing community. This one bill alone would cost Traver IDC about \$50,000 and would turn us from profitable to operating in the red. We would have no choice but to take other major cost cutting measures to remain solvent and since employee expenses constitute nearly 2/3 of all of our overhead, the cuts would most likely be in this area. We care very much about all of our employees and we believe that is why our current average length of employment is more than 15 years. We do everything we possibly can for all of our employees, and we can't afford to have mandates from Hartford forcing us to do more than we already do.

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

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Jack Traver Jr.

Jack Traver, Jr.
President

everything electrical

motor repair contracting supply programming energy conservation