BRIDGEPORT

William A. Manthey
Vice President/CFO

February 6, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is William A. Manthey, Vice President and CFO at Bridgeport Fittings, Inc. in Stratford, CT.

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.

In a manufacturing business, time off is more expensive because machines that feed work to other workers are shutdown. Absenteeism is difficult to control when workers are not getting paid. Passing this bill will magnify the problems we face in manufacturing. Our company has a fair vacation policy that was designed to encompass sick and personal days. The State of Connecticut should not be dictating we expand it.

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

Signed,

W A Manthey

William A. Manthey
VP/CFO

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