ROBERT MADORE
DIRECTOR
REGION 9A UAW
111 SOUTH ROAD
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-2560
PHONE: (860) 674-0143
FAX: (860) 674-1164
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

® RON GETTELFINGER, President ® 66 ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

March 1, 2010

To: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Robert Madore, Director
Tom Purcell, UAW Representative

Re: HB 245 AAC Smoking in Public Places
HB 264 AAC Prohibiting Smoking in Licensed Childcare Facilities

Good morning, my name is Tom Purcell and I am here on behalf of UAW Region 9A Director Robert Madore. We are here today to support HB 245 and HB 264 concerning smoking in public places and licensed childcare facilities respectively.

UAW Region 9A represents over 50,000 active and retired members in New England, Metropolitan New York and Puerto Rico. Our membership is diverse and includes legal service attorneys, manufacturing, auto mechanics, museum and non-profit professionals, public sector, adjunct professors, and more. More specifically as it relates to HB 264 we represent childcare workers in Stamford and Hartford.

HB 245 would prohibit smoking in workplaces with one or more employees. Eliminating the exemption in Connecticut's current smoke free air law for employers with fewer than 5 employees is a win-win situation for businesses, employees and customers. Small businesses that allow smoking incur greater expenses for insurance, health care, cleaning and employee accommodations as requested. Eliminating smoking in these workplaces will save them money – money that could be reinvested into the business.

For the past 2 years, UAW dealers at Foxwoods have fought for a ban on smoking where they work. While we are happy to see this committee taking up this issue for employees of small employers we urge you not to forget those employees who work at 2 of the state's largest employers – Foxwoods Resort and Casino and Mohegan Sun.

These employees continue to get sick and die from constant exposure to second hand smoke at work. While both casinos have entered into non-binding agreements with Governor Rell to address second hand smoke and Foxwoods dealers have made important strides in addressing second hand smoke through collective bargaining – we all know it won't be enough until smoking is completely banned in these establishments.

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke*," concluded that 100% smokefree workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace. Additionally, the study indicates that casino, bar, and restaurant workers are significantly more exposed to toxic secondhand smoke at work compared to other segments of the U.S. workforce.

As for childcare centers, we think it unconscionable that there would be smoking allowed around children when so much data exists about the dangers of second hand smoke.
In conclusion, employees, whether at small or large employers do not get to choose where they work. It is imperative that this committee and this legislature address the issue of second hand smoke exposure at work for all of Connecticut's workers.

Thank you and again we urge passage of both of these bills.

Opeiu494