State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE BILL WADSWORTH
TWENTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (860) 677-2784
EMAIL: Bill.Wadsworth@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

State Representative Bill Wadsworth
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Monday, March 7, 2011

Good Morning Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, Senator Roraback, Representative Williams and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Membership:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1007, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON REVENUE and House Bill No. 6387, AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS.

The number one consideration in the Governor's budget address of February 16, 2011 was jobs. With the economy in increasing distress for several years and unemployment at historically high levels, the jobs priority is critical for recovery. It is also imperative for a state that relies on an income tax and a sales tax for a large part of its revenue to have a vibrant economy that will support such a strategy.

The State of Connecticut already has one of the highest tax burdens on income and this distinction has made it unfriendly to investment by businesses. In order to have any real growth in jobs, the State of Connecticut must employ a strategy that will give businesses the confidence, over the long term, that our state government will assist them by creating a positive climate in which businesses can grow.

I urge the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to forward these proposed bills to the Office of Fiscal Analysis to evaluate their potential impact on public and private sector jobs.

I thank the Committee for considering proposed Senate Bill 1007 and House Bill No. 6387. I respectfully suggest that raising taxes is counterproductive to recovering from our current economic condition and should be avoided at all costs.