



January 31, 2011

Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee

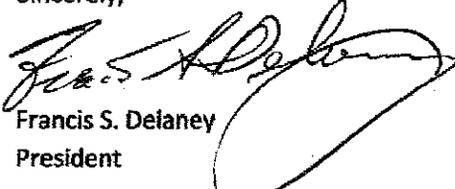
Re: HB-5460

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that you oppose House Bill 5460, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings. This bill, if passed, would prohibit employers from meeting with employees over issues concerning such things as union organizing, religion, politics and charitable donation. As president and owner of a small business employing 14 full and part time employees, it is critical that I be able to speak freely and candidly to my employees about issues which affect the well being of the company and the employees themselves. It should not be the purview of the government to restrict a small business owner from communicating to the employees how actions by the employees could be adverse to the company, nor should government preclude the opportunity for charitable donations to be availed to the employees.

Government has already far overstepped the bounds that our founding fathers has in mind in the governance of the country, this bill is another outreach in the wrong direction. While other States are looking to make themselves more attractive to the business community, Connecticut seems bent on a course to make the business environment less attractive, driving more and more of the businesses out of the State. Connecticut is already recognized as among the least business friendly states in the country, losing thousands of businesses since the late 1980's. Since the inception of my business in 1982, I have witnessed the loss of many of my customers (manufacturing companies) who have left Connecticut due to its high taxes, high energy costs, high health care costs, inordinate mandates and antagonistic treatment by state government. Instead of considering anti-business legislation such as this, the legislature should be looking at ways to make the state more competitive and friendly to business, which is the engine that provides jobs, and the tax revenue that pays for the State to operate.

Sincerely,



Francis S. Delaney
President

P.O. BOX 1045 • 3000 SOUTH MAIN STREET • TORRINGTON, CT 06790-1045
(860) 482-5919 • FAX (860) 489-4686
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER