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February 23, 2011

Members
Legislative Labor and Public Employees Committee
State Capital
Hartford, Connecticut

Re: Opposition to SB 913 – Mandatory Paid Sick Leave

Dear Legislators,

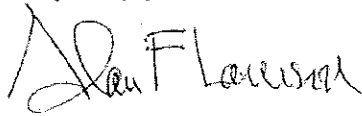
At a time when our State is reeling from the economic downturn and small businesses are struggling to survive, and I would remind you that small business is the backbone of our economy, it is impossible to imagine why the state would consider legislation that would require employers to provide paid sick leave. I understand that the current bill proposal would apply only to employers with 50 or more employees. But I also know that making the leap at a later date to a smaller threshold is much too easy.

Negotiating work conditions is part of the process of employment. I believe our firm is very responsive in that respect. We already provide 2 weeks of paid vacation in the first year of employment, seven paid holidays, and five days of paid sick leave. However, it is getting harder and harder to maintain this level of benefits. And this bill would mandate what is now subject to bargaining in the labor market.

I also understand that this would make Connecticut the first state in the country to mandate this benefit. Why do we need to be the ground breaking state on a measure that is clearly anti-business? The bill would limit a company's ability to establish labor policies that would allow it to continue in business and would make companies in Connecticut less able to compete with the adjacent states of Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island for skilled employees.

I urge you to reject SB 913 to save Connecticut businesses from having to absorb yet another legislative mandate that would clearly be harmful to the business community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan F. Lamson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Alan F. Lamson, AIA, AICP
President, Duly Authorized

c: file
Representative Jason Rojas

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