



# Warren of Stafford®

WARREN CORPORATION

AN AFFILIATE OF

*Ing. Loro Piana & C.s.p.a.*

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 23, 2011

Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Guy Birkhead; I am Vice President of Operations of the Warren Corporation in Stafford Springs. We manufacture high quality apparel fabric and have been in the state for well over a century.

We have managed with great difficulty to weather the various unfriendly legislation that has been targeted at our industry over many years. We are still here and fight hard every day which enables us to look after the well being of our employees. The average length of service is over 17 years, I think this alone is testament to the respect and satisfaction our employees have in response to the way we take care of them.

During 2009 we unfortunately had to lay off a significant number of our work force. The recovery we are all hoping for has yet to come. We understand the hardship the community has gone through and have played a very strong part in maintaining some stability in the area by avoiding further lay off, not cutting pay or benefits to our remaining employees, and to the contrary, not burdening them with significant additional health costs which other companies have had to do.

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB 913 which would require Connecticut employees to provide paid sick leave. This proposal would substantially increase our business costs and would force us to re-evaluate our present benefits with our employees which we know are appreciated.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and work place costs in Connecticut. Surely you can see the difficult task ahead facing this state, this is a time to think of cost saving, encouraging the existing employers to remain here and not inflict additional expense on employers in what is probably the most expensive state to do business in. Thank you.

Signed

Guy M Birkhead.