

February 25, 2011

Connecticut General Assembly
Labor Committee
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06100

Re: Opposition to SB913, Mandatory Paid Time Off

Members of the Labor Committee:

Sterling Engineering Corporation in Barkhamsted is a 70-year old, family-owned, woman-owned contract machine shop, employing 65 highly-skilled, highly-paid people in a very competitive environment. We produce large, complex machined components for the aerospace and power generation industries. I have served as President and 20-year board member of the Connecticut Tooling & Machining Association, as a Trustee and as Chairman of the Education Committee for the National Tooling and Machining Association, and as a charter member and board member of Connecticut's Aerospace Components Manufacturers.

I am writing to oppose SB 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees. This proposal will substantially increase costs and could have the unintended effect of causing us to evaluate other benefits we provide to our employees, and, I believe, kill existing jobs.

If Connecticut is truly "Open for Business" then why would we burden Connecticut employers with additional mandates? Why tell companies which might consider locating in Connecticut that we have the most unfriendly business climate in the country?

If this committee wants to signal that Connecticut is really open for business, then please stand up to powerful special interests and defeat this bill.

Businesses are already struggling with skyrocketing healthcare, energy and commodity costs while trying to remain competitive in a global economy. The state is struggling with high unemployment and record deficits. This bill will make both situations worse.

I urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control the cost of doing business in Connecticut. Growing our economy and creating jobs are the only solutions to many of the problems our state faces.

Respectfully,

John N. Lavieri
President

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