

**APPLIED MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.**

PLUMBING – HEATING – AIR CONDITIONING  
CT LIC. # P1-203743 – F1-0514 – S1-303193

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February 28, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Susan Grudzien, I am Vice President of Applied Mechanical Systems, Inc., a small HVAC & Plumbing contracting business located in Woodbury, CT, Which my husband, Edward and I have run since 1986.

I am, once again, a year later, writing to you today to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate other benefits we provide our employees such as health care. We are now facing a 20 percent increase in premium in order to continue providing health care as a benefit. Our business, like many others in the State, had been thriving up until the end of 2009, when we had to permanently lay-off valued employees in order to survive, and the construction industry is still extremely slow. How can a small business like ours pay an employee when they do not report to work, due to illness, when we have nothing to bill out for that day? Please ask yourselves, “where does this money come from”?

Although SB-913 is geared toward larger businesses with 50 or more employees, it will no doubt be a matter of time before it affects smaller businesses. Therefore, in order to keep unemployment down and keep our small “mom & pop” businesses going during this recession period, it is imperative that legislators understand our struggle right now when available work is so limited.

I urge you to reject this SB-913 proposal and show that you are listening to those you Represent.