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February 23, 2011

Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

To: Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:  
Subject: Reject SB913: Mandatory Paid Time Off

My name is Jack Traver Jr., President of Traver IDC, a manufacturer, distributor, and electrical contractor located in Waterbury, CT. We have been doing business in Waterbury for 73 years. In addition, I recently served as President of the Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, Inc. The SMA is a trade association with about 120 members representing 6000 employees.

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal could substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees.

Many of the members of the SMA are barely keeping their heads above water. If they manage to make a profit in any given year, it is often less than 1% to the bottom line. That being said, the average manufacturing wage in CT is nearly \$70,000.00. These are the best paying jobs in the entire state and the legislature needs to do everything possible to preserve each and every one of these jobs in CT. Although the manufacturers make up 6% of the corporate population, we contribute 25% of the corporate tax revenue.

The effect of this "paid sick time" bill would be devastating to the manufacturing community. Many companies would have no choice but to take other major cost cutting measures to remain solvent and since employee expenses constitute nearly 2/3 of most companies' overhead, the cuts would most likely be in this area. At Traver IDC, we care very much about all of our employees and we believe that is why our current average length of employment is more than 15 years. We do everything we possibly can for all of our employees, and we can't afford to have mandates from Hartford forcing us to do more than we already do.

Preventing the passage of this bill is crucial to the future well-being of our economy and to all residents of Connecticut. Connecticut is already one of the most expensive states in the United States to conduct business and we cannot afford to lose any more jobs to other, more affordable states. The last thing we need right now is to be the 1<sup>st</sup> state in the nation to mandate paid time off. The passage of this bill would **not** make Connecticut a very attractive place to do business.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut.

Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

  
Jack Traver, Jr.  
President

everything electrical

motor repair   contracting   supply   engineering   energy conservation