



Coburn Technologies, Inc.
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February 28, 2011

State of Connecticut
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

To Members of the Labor Committee:

Coburn Technologies, Inc., is a newly formed business spun off by Gerber Scientific, Inc. on Dec. 31, 2010. We chose to keep our headquarters and operations in South Windsor on the campus off I-84 that was once the headquarters of Gerber Scientific, Inc. I am writing this today to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would mandate Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave to hourly and non-exempt employees.

Coburn Technologies, Inc. is a privately held corporation employing about 100 employees in the State of Connecticut of which approximately 50 fall in to the classification of non-exempt. We are a small company struggling to provide benefits to employees comparable to what they had enjoyed previously as part of the larger Gerber organization. We do so, not because of any legal mandates, but out of a need to be competitive to attract and retain employees.

Our program provides paid time off for employees who are sick or who otherwise need personal time. We also write a check for any unused sick time as a bonus on any such employee's anniversary date. Our program also includes short and long term disability insurance that is provided at no cost to employees. However, you can be assured that if the sick leave mandate is imposed upon companies, the expense for providing such benefits will shift to employees in some other way, including the expense from the administrative hardships this legislation would cause; or even worse, companies will reduce their benefit offerings.

We do not need legislation and mandates that will further increase our business costs and force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide to our employees. Such benefits have already been adversely affected by the economic climate, other mandates and rising costs to provide benefits.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Dolen
Vice President, Human Resources