



DANBURY PLAZA
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

March 2, 2011

Members of the Committee on Public Health
State of Connecticut Legislator
Hartford, CT 06106

Good morning, I am Abby Weber; I am a resident of Southbury, CT and am here today providing you with my testimony of Raised Bill 1049, an act requiring certain property owners to provide notice of bed bug infestations.

Professionally speaking, I am the Senior Sales Manager at the Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Danbury, CT and my hotel is fully aware of the bed bug problems that exists in all of North America. In response to this epidemic, my hotel has initiated proactive measures by training our staff on how to inspect for bed bugs, set up procedures and documentation systems and have retained an independent bed bug inspection /canine detection company that performs systematic inspections to all of our hotel rooms and common areas. We are on our game and our bed bug problems are nil.

The hotel industry has been undergoing severe economic pressures since the downturn of the economy in 2008. We have experienced significant reduction both in our leisure and business travelers, yet our operating cost has grown significantly.

Paragraph (3) b states "Prior to making any room available to a prospective guest of a hotel.....the operator of any hotel shall provide the prospective guest with written or verbal notice that sets forth the hotel's bed bug infestation history for the one year preceding the date on which the guest make a room reservation." I recommend that you delete this paragraph.

This language scares me and if this becomes law will scare away more business that we work so hard to obtain. Put yourself in my shoes.....you have been driving a long way and you stop at my hotel to seek a room. You are then informed that we had a problem some time ago with bed bugs. You are now scared and then you get back in your car to travel to nearby New York State where a law like this does not exist for hotels. You tell me who wins.....Welcome to New York and thank you Connecticut for giving us the business!

Respectfully submitted and thank you for your time.

Abby Weber

Abby Weber
Senior Sales Manager