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RE: SB-00063

February 23, 2011

Members of the Labor Committee,

I currently operate a small manufacturing company in New Milford. Since we started operations in 1990, we have seen many of our larger customers (and potential customers) leave the state for (political) climates more suitable to business. Here in New Milford, Kimberly Clark closed and moved it's manufacturing to the Midwest, costing this community hundreds of direct labor jobs, not to mention the ancillary jobs which existed to support their operation. One of the cited reasons was the cost of doing business in Connecticut. I find it hard to believe that the legislature would even consider passing a law that would increase the cost of doing business in the State of Connecticut. This state, along with our neighboring states, are some of the most heavily taxed states in the union. The costs of labor are high, the infrastructure is lacking and in need of repair and upgrading while the costs of energy are some of the highest around. These are all major impediments to attracting, and keeping employers in the State. This type of legislation does nothing more than increase the costs of an already overburdened business community.

You will undoubtedly hear testimony of many who are in support of this bill, citing anecdotal reasons why this bill is necessary. While we can all sympathize with each story, the reality is, if this measure does pass, these very same people may be out of work because their employer has chosen to move to a friendlier locale, had to cut labor cost, or just gave up. With these people out of work, and the business no longer operating in the state (or operating at a diminished capacity), the unemployment burden grows, and with fewer businesses to tax, the costs escalate for everyone. If this bill does come to pass, I for one will have no other choice but to reduce the benefits package we already provide our employees to pay for this. I would need to do this to stay competitive. So in effect you will be "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Please vote this measure down, and help to create a vibrant, business friendly environment for the State of Connecticut. With More people working, employers will have to negotiate better benefits packages to attract qualified employees, state revenues would rise and the unemployment burden will decrease. A WIN-WIN situation for all.

Sincerely,

Paul Guidotti

  
President

East Branch Eng. & Mfg. Inc.