

The Connecticut Association of Smaller Manufacturers

Testimony in Support of:
SB 1 AAC Connecticut Jobs and the Economy

And

**SB 81 AAC Loan Repayment Terms and the Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify for Certain
Economic Development Programs**

Before the Committee on Commerce
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By:
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Good afternoon Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Randy Collins and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Smaller Manufacturers (CASM). CASM is comprised of the Smaller Manufacturer's Association of Connecticut (SMA), the New Haven Manufacturer's Association (NHMA) and the Manufacturers Education and Training Alliance (METAL) of Bridgeport and collectively represents over 300 companies and over 10,000 employees.

CASM is happy to support both SB 1 AAC Connecticut Jobs and the Economy specifically Sections 1-4 and SB 81 AAC Loan Repayment Terms and the Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify for Certain Economic Development Programs especially Section 1, which is targeted to assist Connecticut's Manufacturing Community. SB1 and SB81 as drafted will make various state economic development programs such as the Department of Economic and Community Development's Small Business Express program available to more Connecticut based companies and specifically manufacturing companies. The current cap of 50 employees limits the availability of these programs to many small manufactures and may create a disincentive for companies to expand their workforce.

The passage of these bills would show that Connecticut is a state where manufacturing can work and does work.

Please support both **SB 1 AAC Connecticut Jobs and the Economy** and **SB 81 AAC Loan Repayment Terms and the Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify for Certain Economic Development Programs**.