

TESTIMONY OF HELEN ROSENBERG
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OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Submitted to the
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
February 21, 2012

Re: Raised Bill No.81: An Act Concerning Loan Repayment Terms and the Maximum Number of Employees to Qualify for Certain Economic Development Programs

The City of New Haven would like to express support for Raised Bill 81, which will expand the reach and effectiveness of the Small Business Express programs.

Several manufacturers located in New Haven, representing up to a third of that sector in the city, currently have employment which is hovering just below or just above the 50 person mark. For some the employment level had exceeded 50 people, but had dropped during the economic downturn, and others have been adding jobs steadily over the past several years.

These businesses risk losing the option of utilizing the valuable tools which the Small Business Express loan and grant programs and the Subsidized Training and Employment Program provide to businesses employing 50 or fewer people. At a time when the city's manufacturers are experiencing increased activity, it's important to assure that programs created to enhance the growth of small businesses are as inclusive as possible.