



**Testimony
Christine Mansfield
Legislative Committee Chair
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Commerce Committee
February 28, 2012**

The Quinnipiac Chamber *supports*, **SB-222, An Act Concerning a Regulatory Fairness Board.**

The Quinnipiac Chamber applauds the efforts of the Commerce Committee in winning passage of important legislation to ease the regulatory burden on the state's employers by requiring state agencies to consider the impact of any proposed regulations on the cost of doing business in Connecticut. SB-222 builds on these important initiatives by calling for the creation of a Regulatory Fairness Board to advise the commissioner of the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) on regulatory issues facing small businesses.

Small businesses in Connecticut are responsible for creating over 90% of all new jobs in Connecticut in the last ten years. Unfortunately, the state has witnessed a record number of small businesses closing their doors. While this can be attributed to a variety of economic woes, small businesses often cite the staggering amounts of time and resources that must go into complying with complex and often confusing state regulations as a major barrier to competitiveness. We must take steps to address this by creating a strong voice for easing the regulatory burden on small employers in state government.

The Quinnipiac Chamber also *support* **SB-219, An Act Concerning the Neighborhood Assistance Act**, which enables LLC, S-Corporations and Limited Liability Partnerships and other business entities to qualify for credits under the Neighborhood Assistance Act. This bill recognizes that a growing number of companies are not organized as traditional C Corporations and therefore economic development incentive programs must be expanded to provide incentives to these entities to support job growth.

We also *support* **SB-225, An Act Increasing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Businesses through Research and Development**, which would require The University of Connecticut to establish a program to help state businesses develop innovations in manufacturing technologies. We have several manufacturers in our region who provide high-paying jobs for skilled workers. To assist them in reducing costs and maintaining competitiveness, we need to do more to help them develop and integrate new technologies into the workplace.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 650 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.