CBIA CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in Support (with changes) to HB 6372 AAC The Requirement For Electronic Filing of Quarterly Unemployment Tax Returns

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA supports the labor department efforts to find efficiencies through more electronic filing. However, we are concerned that not all of Connecticut's businesses have kept the same technological pace as the department. The business community would be able to support this bill provided the attached waiver provision was added to protect the few businesses that do not have the technical know-how or capability to comply. The language used to draft this waiver is based on a waiver used by the Department of Revenue Services to excuse individuals from the payment of taxes by electronic funds transfer.

We urge the committee the support HB 6372 provided the attached waiver provision is included.

Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (j)(2) and (j)(4) of this section, any employer required to file a tax return or make a tax payment electronically, may request in writing, not later than thirty days prior to the date such filing or payment is due, that the Administrator waive such requirements if, on the basis of information provided by such employer and on a form prescribed by the Administrator, the Administrator finds that there would be undue hardship for such employer. The Administrator shall promptly inform such employer of the granting or rejection of the requested waiver. The decision of the Administrator shall be final and not subject to further review or appeal. Such waiver shall be effective for twelve months from the date such waiver is granted.