



**Wade's Dairy, Inc.
1316 Barnum Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610
(800) 247-9233**

Thursday, January 31, 2013

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 387 An Act Increasing the Fair Minimum Wage

**To Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley and Representative Smith,
and the Labor Committee as a whole.**

Submitted by Doug Wade, President, Wade Dairy Inc.

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, I thank you for the opportunity for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. My business, Wade's Dairy has been in my family for four generations. We've gone through the greatest of depressions, recessions, and pretty much any other financial monkey business you could think of. There were nearly 1,000 small dairy farms in Ct since Wade's started in 1893. In 1992 Wade's Dairy moved to Bridgeport after spending 75 years in Fairfield. There were naysayers, people said that the move to Bridgeport would hurt us, and yet, twenty years later we are still here providing a local service. You want to know what our secret to success is? We honestly care deeply about our customers needs and our employees. We are a family run business with family values. Why we've been able to withstand the test of time because we care and our customers and employees know it.

I have lived and breathed the dairy business since I was five years old and it's taken a lot of hard work and dedication to keep this operation running through the good times and the bad. My name is on every half pint of milk served to in our public school contracts and on every gallon of milk in your local store. Wade's Dairy sells pure fresh milk, gently pasteurized to assure the consumer's safety while maintaining the natural flavor. Our customers deserve the best products and service that we can provide.

I do my best to pay my employees good wages that are in tandem with their efforts. This is a team business that needs every player to be sharp and committed to servicing our customers. We have forty seven employees that make my company viable and we have almost no turnover because we pay fair livable wages. There is nothing that makes me prouder than when one of my employees is able to purchase a home or start a family. The American dream carrying on.

There is no way that a person can live in other than poverty making \$8.25 per hour. Minimum wage laws have been in place since 1938 in our country and they have simply not kept pace with inflation. The minimum wage serves an essential purpose in protecting human rights. Bringing the minimum wage up to \$9.75 per hour is barely keeping up with the minimum wage that we had in place back in 1969. We can be a better society and we must not kick the can down the road. For far too many men and women in this state, the American Dream has become an illusion. The average worker has done all they can to take one step forward, only to be dragged two steps back by rising cost of everyday items, without a rise in pay. We're pricing the American Dream out of reach for the average family and it's time that we do the right thing, put the Dream back into focus and show that we care again.

Members of the committee, I thank you for your time, and I urge you to support SB 387 to increase the minimum wage. Please feel free to call or stop by our place of business anytime and while you're at it, invite along any business owner that opposes this bill along with you and we'll be happy to teach them how to operate a business that cares.

Respectfully,

Douglas H. Wade Jr.
President

Wade's Dairy, Inc.
1316 Barnum Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

T:(800) 247-9233
F:(203) 696-6121

doug@wadesdairy.com