

Good day, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Ross Hollander and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Advisory Board to the Workers Compensation Commission by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the committee for the opportunity to appear again before you and speak to my desire and qualifications to serve on such an esteemed board.

I am the Chairman and CEO of Hartford Distributors, a local distributor of beverage alcohol. If confirmed, I will bring to the board, the experiences and knowledge of a small business owner who is keenly aware of the advantages of the Workers Compensation system. Our industry, in particular, is characterized by intense materials handling and thus we have much experience with Workers Compensation claims from the perspective of the company and its employees. I have served on many boards before but perhaps none has been as well suited to my skills as this opportunity. I have the experience at many levels of the wholesale trade, including the material handling aspects of warehousing, expediting and delivering millions of cases of beer. As part of my passion for my business, I also call on our retail accounts, so I have first-hand knowledge of what our drivers and our customers deal with on a daily basis. My company has partnered with retailers countless times to remedy poor safety conditions at the retail account, knowing full well that beer delivery is a taxing job to begin with, without adding potentially dangerous delivery conditions.

My commitment to our employees, our industry and our customers dictates a stance reflective of safety first and the well-being of our employees. My focus is on family, both organic and extended, including my employees, customers, colleagues and my community. It will be my sincere pleasure and my duty, where appropriate to keep the Board educated about the unique issues of the wholesale distribution industry and the evolving advancements in general material handling equipment.

As a proud recipient of the Occupational Health and Safety Award from the Workers Compensation Commission, I could not be more honored to be considered for this position. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to playing a pivotal role in the continued good work of the Advisory Board.

Ross Hollander