



March 10, 2014

Subject: Please vote in favor of HB 5314: Unemployment Compensation Tax Relief

Dear Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Dianne Veley. I am the Human Resources Manager of The Siemon Company. We are a family owned business which began in 1903 in Bridgeport and moved to Watertown in the 1950's. We employ over 290 people in Connecticut and an additional 550 people globally. We have deep roots in the community and have no plans to leave Connecticut for another domestic location. However, we find ourselves in a frustrating position of frequently having to write to our state legislators about our ability to competitively compete in a global environment and to continue to employ Connecticut residents.

I am writing in response to the Unemployment Compensation Tax Relief Bill which would use an estimated \$60 million of the projected state budget surplus to be used to pay a portion of the balance of interest owed on funds the state borrowed from the federal government to keep Connecticut's unemployment compensation system afloat.

On behalf of Siemon, I strongly urge you to support HB 5314. We need to take steps right now to turn the tides and become a favorable state in which companies like ours can prosper and grow. We need to show companies that we want them to stay in Connecticut and even relocate here. Passage of this bill will be a step in the right direction.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Veley
Global Human Resources Manager

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