

Thompson Brands LLC

80 South Vine Street • Meriden, CT 06451

March 5, 2014

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee
State of Connecticut
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support for HB 5314, Unemployment Compensation Tax Relief

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of Thompson Brands LLC, a 135 year old confectionary manufacturer located in Meriden, Connecticut, I am writing to express my support for HB 5314, 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.

Like many businesses in our state, every dollar is important to help our company provide jobs, maintain our equipment, and invest in new technology. Currently, our unemployment compensation taxes are very high, and those taxes are a major cost factor in our business plan. In addition to our unemployment taxes, we are also paying a federal tax that increases every year, plus special assessments each July. This burden is too much to bear on our own.

We urge you to support HB 5314 because it will benefit our business, our State's economy and the prospects for more jobs in our state.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Mary Filippone
HR Manager

Ph: 203.235.2541 • Fax: 203.630.2492

Adora® Calcium Supplement
www.adoracalcium.com

Thompson Chocolate® Since 1879
www.thompsonchocolate.com