

Bianca, Pam

From: Bill Ethier <bethier@hbact.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 10:56 AM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 5124

To: Senator Gary Winfield, Representative Peter Tercyak and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Date: January 29, 2015

On behalf of the HBRA of Connecticut, this is to express our opposition to HB 5124, AAC Consecutive Workdays and Holiday Pay.

The HBRA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with about eight hundred (800) member firms statewide employing tens of thousands of CT's citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry and to consumers. Our members build between 70% and 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year and perform countless home improvements.

We urge the committee to maintain current law that requires overtime pay rates if an employee works greater than 40 hours in a work week. We also urge you to recognize that many businesses, including residential construction, do not necessarily work just 8 hours per day, Monday through Friday. So, the one-size-fits-all approach of HB 5124 will not work well for many types of businesses or their employees.

HB 5124 would require extra pay for many workers in the residential construction industry who, by necessity of the residential marketplace, i.e., working with homeowners and home buyers, must work on Saturdays and Sundays, or often must schedule their work over a span of greater than five consecutive days, even if they work only 40 total hours.

Almost all of our member firms are small businesses, and we continue to struggle in a painfully slow recovering housing market. New single family home construction in 2014 was actually below the level in 2013, indicating continued weakness in residential construction. A few big apartment or condo buildings in our urban areas, which skew the total numbers, cannot make up for the continued pain experienced in our industry. The extra costs this bill would impose on our businesses could be crippling at worst, and are unnecessarily burdensome at a minimum – another reason to not want to do business in Connecticut. It would also place another upward pressure on home prices, which would not help our recovering market.

Please do not act favorably on HB 5124, and thank you very much for considering our views on this legislation.

Sincerely,

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