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Ref: Senate and House Republican members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Proposed Tax package

To: Co-chairs Senator John Fonfara and Representative Jeffrey Berger; Ranking Members Senator Scott Frantz and Representative Christopher Davis; Vice-Chairs Senator Carlo Leone and Representative Roland Lemar; Senator Steve Casano, Senator Eric Coleman, Senator Toni Boucher, Senator Gary Winfield and Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to the proposed tax package to increase taxes again by approximately \$2.4 billion retroactive to January 1, 2015. If they become law, these massive tax increases and new taxes, on top of \$6.4 billion in tax increases over the last four years, will further hurt families and businesses, especially small businesses, and is precisely the kind of legislation that kills entrepreneurship and growth.

I am a small independent home builder and am part of a much larger association of independent home builders and as such implore you to work to improve the state's business climate by controlling state spending and eliminating waste, reduce business costs and do whatever is necessary to trim the fat and come up with a lean government.

To not do so would preclude Connecticut from reaching its economic potential and regain its place as one of the best places to live and work. It is time collectively focus on a campaign to develop a broad based coalition of interests, primarily small businesses, to grow jobs. It is time to figure out what CT is doing right and reenergize efforts in those areas conducive to growth while we discard the non-working elements because of onerous restrictions and business regulations.

On the issue of state spending, it is imperative that the state's new two-year budget balance without tax increases and borrowing while continuing to make state government more efficient and effective. We need a budget based on strong fiscal policy that encourages entrepreneurs and companies with capital to invest in Connecticut.

Tax increases won't solve our problems. We need economic growth to produce jobs that produce tax revenues that we so desperately here in Connecticut. The environment in Connecticut has not been conducive to attracting new business. If we are to make Connecticut a more attractive state for companies and people with capital to invest here, then we have to get our own fiscal house in order and the most efficient initial step in that process is to eliminate the waste in the budget and keep a lid on spending. To not do so would preclude Connecticut from reaching its economic potential and regain its place as one of the best places to live and work.

Respectfully,

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