

NANCY L. JOHNSON
6TH DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
CHAIRMAN

HUMAN RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0706

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
3113 FAY BURN HOUM OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0706
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4478

NEW BRITAIN OFFICE:
489 HUNTER STREET—SUITE 200
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06093-4057
TELEPHONE: (860) 223-8412

Governor John G. Rowland
State Capitol, Room 202
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rowland:

I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding the future of Connecticut's Conservation and Load Management Fund.

As you know, I have been working closely with Connecticut's manufacturing community to resolve two issues which have had a potentially devastating impact on this vital component of Connecticut's economy: namely, the 201 Steel Tariff and the China Trade imbalance. I have enclosed a copy of my recent letter to manufacturers updating them on my efforts, in which I describe the "perfect storm" of economic crises which have converged to create a situation so dire, that I believe it has the potential to decimate — or possibly even eliminate — Connecticut's manufacturing industry over the next several years.

My reason for sharing this is that through my work on this issue, I have come to believe that manufacturing in Connecticut simply cannot take another serious blow at this time and be expected to survive. Many business owners I have spoken to have told me that eliminating the fund (which many believe to be the sole incentive that Connecticut offers to manufacturers) would be just such a blow. One facility manger of a company in my district employing over 400 people described it as "the straw that would break the camel's back" in terms of the company deciding to relocate outside of Connecticut.

As a legislator, I know the incredible pressures you face in trying to close the large budget deficit presently before the state, and I admire the courage you have shown in demanding that Connecticut's taxpayers not be asked to shoulder the entire burden in this process. However, I wanted to ensure that you had all the information possible in making these important decisions, including what I have learned in my work with Connecticut manufacturers over the past year.

I would be happy to discuss this situation further with you if you wish. Please feel free to call me at my District Office at (860) 223-8412 at your convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

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Nancy L. Johnson
Member of Congress

NLJ/pmos

cc: Marc Ryan