

Statement of Jim Brown

Vice President and General Manager for William B Meyer, Inc.

Re: Senate Bill 946

I am Jim Brown, Vice President and General Manager for William B. Meyer Inc. based in Stratford Ct. We have been doing business in Connecticut for 100 years. We are an independent company; however we are an agent for United Van Lines and Mayflower. Our primary business is arranging residential and commercial moving and storage.

I am here to raise and speak to our concern for the proposed \$2.4 billion increase in new and higher taxes. Even though, each year, Connecticut taxpayers already have to work until the middle of May, longer than the residents of any other state, just to pay for all their federal, state, and local taxes, there is a proposal to raising our taxes even higher.

As a moving and storage company we have a unique perspective of businesses and people moving in and out of the state. I believe statistics show there is a direct correlation between the fact that Connecticut is considered anti-business and the out migration from Connecticut. And business and people are answering by moving out.

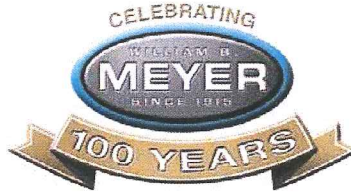
Some specific examples of companies that we have moved either all or part of their facilities out of Connecticut are as follows:

This is not about the companies; it is about the business climate in the state.

GTE:	Stamford	Texas
UPS:	Greenwich	Georgia
International Paper:	Stamford	Tennessee
Olympus:	Stamford	Tennessee and Ohio
Sealed Air:	Wallingford	South Carolina
Northrop Grumman:	Stamford	Maryland
Exxon Mobil:	Stratford	Different facilities across the country

And it continues, this summer we will move two more companies out of state:

Stolt Nielson:	Norwalk	Texas
Trend Capital	Greenwich	Florida



Sample companies Westend Moving and Storage has moved out of state:

Cadbury Beverage: Trumbull Texas
 Nova Labs: Danbury North Carolina

Who is next?

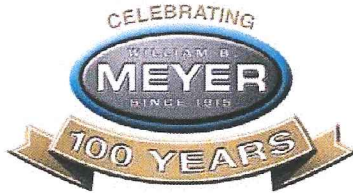
Major corporations we have moved into the state in the past 15 years: 0

Before my time at William B Meyer Inc., during the 1970's and 1980s, Meyer moved multiple companies into Connecticut from New York. As a matter of fact we made a living at it.

Residential:

The stats in my statement represent United Van Line's data on residential relocations in and out of the state. United Van Lines calls the study the National Movers Study. I have a copy of a map that displays the same information. Based on the moves we provide as a van line, the study will rank states as an inbound state, outbound state, or a balanced state. We are an outbound state, meaning the van line moves more people and families out of the state then into the state. Over the course of five years, we have 2,017 more outbound moves then inbound. These are families moving out of the state. It is interesting to note that in 2010 we were more of a balanced state. However taxes and fees were raised in 2011 and the results have been to push us back into an outbound state status.

	Inbound Moves	Outbound Moves
2014	1519	1989
2013	1466	2079
2012	1564	1991
2011	1352	1669
2010	1903	2093
Total:	7,804	9,821



In a recent *CEO Magazine Survey* Chief Executives just ranked Ct. 45th among all states as the best to do business with and the trend is getting worse. For taxes and regulation Ct. gets a star and a half, out of five. Rounding out the bottom are Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, New York and California. All are outbound states except California, which is a balanced state. The top three, meaning best for business, includes Texas, Florida, and North Carolina. All of which are considered inbound states for our van line. There is clearly a strong, direct correlation between taxes and regulation, on one hand, and where people and companies either start up or move, on the other.

My industry is also affected by the high cost of doing business in this state. A list of our competitors that were based in Connecticut, but have closed and are no longer in business is as follows:

Amodio – New Britain

Nationwide Moving and Storage- Windsor

Westend Moving and Storage-Bridgeport

Hartford Despatch-Hartford

Barrieau Moving and Storage- Hartford

Blinderman Motor Lines- Waterford

Therefore I ask you to block these increases in taxes and spending and do the exact opposite so we can have a reverse effect, move people and companies into the state. There is nothing I would rather do more for my company and state in the near future, then to start relocating businesses and families back into Connecticut because it once again ranks as one of the best places to live, raise a family, to work, to create and expand a new business, and to retire.

Thank you.

United Van Lines 2014 National Movers Study

