



October 11, 2016

Subject: State Spending Cap

Dear State Spending Cap Commission,

My name is Thomas Costello. I am the Chief Financial Officer of The Siemon Company. We are a family owned business which began in 1903 in Bridgeport and moved to Watertown in the 1950's. We employ over 290 people in Connecticut and an additional 470 people globally. We have deep roots in the community and have no plans to leave Connecticut for another domestic location. However, we find ourselves in a frustrating position of frequently having to write to our state legislators about our ability to competitively compete in a global environment and to continue to employ Connecticut residents.

I am writing in response to the State Spending Cap discussion. It is imperative that the legislature enact an enforceable cap that brings budget stability by capping the amount the state can spend in any given year. We support your position. We are believers that an enforceable spending cap will encourage legislators to prioritize spending. Legislators and the government should be personally penalized for not meeting the cap. We also believe that disciplined state spending boosts public sector confidence, which encourages businesses to invest and expand. We need to show companies that we want them to stay in Connecticut and even relocate here. It is time the legislature ends the process of continually raising taxes to meet its insatiable spending habits. This cap will be a step in the right direction.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Costello".

Thomas Costello
Chief Financial Officer