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March 1, 2007

Lee Fisher
Lieutenant Governor
State of Ohio
77 South High Street
P O Box 1001
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Lee,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me the other day. As I mentioned Governor Strickland was in for lunch and I passed along the enclosed article by Stuart Garson pertaining to the workers compensation group rating system and its effects on small businesses.

Our deli/restaurant is a perfect example. We were covered under group rating and after one or two employee injury claims we were booted out of the group. Our rates seriously jumped from \$ 25,000 per year to \$ 75,000 a year. We have enrolled into the available Workers Compensation Bureau programs created to try and reduce costs, but we must wait at least 4 to 5 years to get back into a group. There is something wrong with this system.

Mr. Garson's article states the problem far better than I, but the bottom line is that it's getting harder and harder for small businesses to stay in business in the state of Ohio.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Hopefully you and Governor Strickland can address this in the very near future.

Sincerely Yours

Earl Stein, Owner
Corky & Lenny's

enc.

cc: Stuart Garson, Garson & Associates, Co.

For your wife!