Public Hearing: Job Creation in Pennsylvania
Date/Time: *Wednesday August 24, 2011* *10 a.m. - Noon* **Location:** Hazle Township Commons Building, 103 West 27th Street, Hazle Township PA 18202

Michael Leib 10:05 am – 10:20 am
Summary of Remarks

1. Background Weatherly Casting & Machine/ Hazleton Casting Co
2. Employment, then and now (120 currently)
3. Impact of regulations. Cumulative effects. Regulatory effects often go unnoticed by businesses and the public until it is too late.
4. Examples: Stormwater Runoff permits for small manufacturers. OSHA Medical Access through records as part of the "Injury and Illness Recordkeeping National Emphasis Program" (Federal). Others.

Over the past 20 years I have witnessed more regulations and a dizzying amount of reports that invariably cost enormous amounts of time plus the retention of consultants to muddle through the compliance issues. And for what? I have never met a single individual who does not care about safety, clean air or water, but we are to the point where all of these regulations amount to nothing more than a "gotcha" mentality. The diversion of productive activities to compliance activity is a strain on all small manufacturers that has exceeded available resources to comply. Some may say, "Well fine, comply or go out of business." Many do. If these obstacles were in place in 1989 when I first acquired WCM, I do not believe we could have made it. That is precisely the problem for today's entrepreneurs----a business environment that is hostile, particular to manufacturing, created by government action that provides no meaningful benefit to the safety and health of our employees or the improvement of the environment. The political aspects of doing the right thing by rejecting regressive regulations are monumental. Politicians who side with industry are commonly labeled as "supporting polluters".

America is, or was, the country of hope for some many individuals who sought opportunity to create and build entities that provided so many jobs. This has changed. Entrepreneurs, for the most part, do not seek government assistance, but a business environment that is free from unwarranted interference. The jobs will follow.

Michael Leib