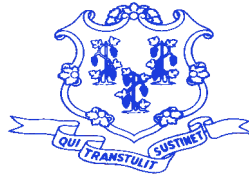


# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



For IMMEDIATE Release  
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Contact: Garland D. Higgins  
(860) 240-8733

## REP. FONTANA SPEAKS OUT AGAINST STOP AND SHOP CLOSING

**State Representative Steve Fontana (D-North Haven)** today criticized Stop & Shop for its plans to close its North Haven warehouse and distribution facility by the middle of this year. Closing the facility could put more than 1,000 in Greater New Haven out of work by June 1.

“I’m extremely disappointed that Stop & Shop chose to take this drastic action without providing any advance notice to local officials, state officials, or even its own employees,” said Rep. Fontana. “Given the company’s investment in the facility, I’m surprised that Stop & Shop made no apparent effort to raise any of its concerns about its size or efficiency with stakeholders in a position to help.”

“Clearly, our focus as a community now should be on the well-being of the hardworking employees suddenly dislocated by this unwelcome announcement,” said Rep. Fontana. “While I am pleased that Stop and Shop is planning to offer employees a severance package along with retraining and job counseling, we, as a state, need to be prepared to do whatever we can to supplement that effort. I stand ready to help in any way possible.”

*Rep. Fontana is serving his fifth term in the Connecticut General Assembly. He is House Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, and serves on the Insurance and Transportation Committees.*

###