



Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator John McKinney
Representative Sean Williams

Members of Environment Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **support of S.B. 31, AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP ACCOUNT.**

The Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association (ICPA) represents 550 petroleum marketers and their associated business in Connecticut. ICPA members employ over 13,000 people in our state and provide our fellow citizens with gasoline and heating oil.

This bill provides just enough funding so that the Tank Fund remains viable in the eyes of the Environmental Protection Agency. If the Governors budget recommendations, to cut the fund by \$1.1 million, are accepted we may be jeopardizing the status of the fund resulting in the potential closing of hundreds of gas stations throughout Connecticut.

This important piece of legislation will help the small independent gasoline businesses for the following reasons:

1. The Connecticut Commercial Tank Fund was put in place by the Legislature in 1990 to provide the insurance required by federal law – when the private insurance market no longer offered affordable coverage;
2. The fund is paid for with a portion of the state's petroleum gross earnings tax – which collects tens of million of dollars more that go to its original purpose;
3. The fund only uses \$10 million per year to clean up leaking underground storage tanks;
4. Commercial Tank Fund owners all over the country cannot buy affordable, renewable tank insurance;
5. The Tank Fund ensures that leaking underground tanks are addressed to prevent contamination of ground water;
6. The Tank Fund budget was cut in 2003 and never restored, necessitating that current funding is maintained with no further cuts;
7. The proper funding of the Tank Fund ensures that the environment is protected and that Connecticut family owned businesses can operate;
8. Cuts to the Tank Fund impede the cleanup of petroleum leaks;

9. The Tank Fund has a current back log of 845 claims and any further cuts would exacerbate the wait to get paid.
10. Claims take approximately 6 to 10 months to be processed, approved and paid. Further cuts would extend the time it takes for many small businesses to be reimbursed from the fund.

I ask that the Environment Committee **support S.B. 31, AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP ACCOUNT.**

Respectfully,



Christian A. Herb
Associate Director