

December 8, 2009

Co-Chair Toni Harp  
Co-Chair John Geragosian  
Senator Dan DeBicella  
Representative Craig Miner

Dear Connecticut Legislator:

I am writing you to voice my opposition to proposed funding cuts to the Connecticut Underground Tank Program on line 16 of the Governor's November Deficit Mitigation Plan. I owned and operated a gasoline service station in Middletown, CT for nearly 22 years. I sold the business and real estate in March of 2008 and hold the first mortgage on this property. To me, the CT Underground Tank Fund represents security that, in the event of a catastrophic spill or release, the current owner would be able to rectify the situation and remain in operation. Private insurance is difficult to obtain, and the costs can be exorbitant. Without the availability of this fund many small operators would be forced to close down or even worse, operate illegally without insurance. In the event of catastrophe, many small operators would have no option but to walk away from contaminated sites.

The CT Tank Fund is a shining example of a successful government program. It has allowed small business owners access to a market that is dominated by large chains. It promotes competition and provides more choices and lower fuel prices. It ensures our health and well being through the clean up of contaminated sites. I urge you to maintain funding of this program and reject line 16 of the Governor's November Deficit Mitigation Plan.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Coomes  
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