

Mr. Peter Grippo
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Co-Chair Toni Harp
Co-Chair John Geragosian
Senator Dan DeBicella
Representative Craig Miner

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Grippo's LLC is a family owned business which operates a Mobil gasoline station in Durham, CT. I am writing you today to voice my concerns regarding proposed cuts to the CT Underground Tank Fund program outlined in Line 16 of the Governor's Deficit Mitigation proposal.

The CT Tank Program is vital to small business in two ways. First of all, it provides required insurance to meet the financial responsibility requirements established by the federal government. Secondly, in the event of a release, it provides financial assistance in the remediation of impacted properties. Without this program, gasoline station owners would be required to purchase environmental insurance, an extremely costly endeavor. Also, akin to health insurance, many locations would not be able to qualify for this insurance due to "pre-existing conditions" (i.e. past contamination issues).

The livelihood of all independent gasoline retailers is dependant upon this program. This program has been successful in many ways, it promotes fair competition and helps the environment. Continued funding is paramount for the survival of small business owners. Please remove line 16 of the Governor's Deficit Mitigation proposal from future consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Mr. Peter Grippo
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