

**Testimony of
Alan Tracy
Magic Minit Car Wash
Enfield, Connecticut**

**FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING**

Monday, February 9, 2009

**H.B. No. 6350 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING EXEMPTIONS FROM THE
SALES AND USE TAX AND LOWERING THE RATE OF SUCH TAX**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples, members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Alan Tracy and I am the owner of Magic Minit Car Wash in Enfield, Connecticut.

I come before you today to testify on House Bill 6350 AN ACT ELIMINATING EXEMPTIONS FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX AND LOWERING THE RATE OF SUCH TAX. I urge your consideration to not impose a sales tax on Connecticut car washes.

Our industry is a very competitive and small business oriented type of enterprise. Most, if not all, car wash operators are small, family owned businesses that employ many entry level type of workers.

The owners of the businesses in our industry work directly at their businesses. There are no mega-corporations or layers of management. If you own a car wash in Connecticut you work at yourself you won't be in business for very long.

The Connecticut General Assembly wisely removed the tax on car washing services in the 1993 Legislative Session. Before it was removed, we had different automated machines required to charge the tax and others did not have to. We had attendant operations charging the tax, but "Free Wash with Fill-Up" by major gas companies did not have to charge it.

In short, we had an unworkable tax that caused more confusion and unfairness for a limited amount of tax revenue and it was wisely repealed.

We hope that this Committee and members of the General Assembly will reflect upon this history when it considers all the policy options this year. It was an unwise, unfair and unworkable tax back when it was imposed for a few years and would be again today.

We urge you to NOT re-impose the car wash sales tax on our customers and our businesses.

Thank you. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.