

Written testimony of T. Michael Morrissey, Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association C/O Morrissey Consulting, 332 Strickland ST, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (Office 860-633-8781) before the Environment and Technology Committee of the CT General Assembly on March 18, 2010.

Reference: RAISED BILL NO. 465, AN ACT CONCERNING PURCHASING OF PROPANE

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Senator John W. Fonfara and Representative Vicky Orsini Nardello and other distinguished members of the committee; I am T. Michael Morrissey, Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent local members of our national trade association regarding **RAISED BILL NO. 465: AN ACT CONCERNING PURCHASING OF PROPANE** which we oppose.

This bill directly challenges the fundamentals and safety principles of an industry that has operated safely for almost 100 years. The State of Connecticut and the vast majority of other states in our nation, operates under strict laws and regulations more generically known as "Containers Laws" which in part, limit who may fill and not fill propane tanks. Other parts of "Container Laws" clearly stipulate, who is responsible for maintaining these pressurized containers in the field.

If these "Container Laws" are compromised during the filling operation, there will be serious safety consequences. When safety and risk become an issue, this is what a significant representative of the insurance industry stated in an email received yesterday by me:

Bradley C. Boers -Senior Vice President - Lockton Companies, LLC

"The insurance industry views container laws as a vital safety principle. In the absence of such laws, accountability or "checks & balances" on maintaining a safe "fill" and/or who may "fill" would be diminished, resulting in the potential for more frequent and sever losses. Increased loss activity would force insurance companies to increase rates or exit this class of business altogether. Higher premiums or the lack of an insurance carrier could force many of the small to medium sized retailers out of business"

Our research on this bill tells me its language was inspired out of concern for one specific community, which I know intimately. This is a beautiful and well operated community who some 18 years ago, made a choice to heat their rental units with environmentally friendly propane versus much more expensive electricity. Since that time, residents have saved thousands of dollars in heating costs. This community is a non typical propane installation site. There is now an effort underway between the ownership of the propane supplier and the community, to work out their differences.

Please do not create a process that would undermine safety, fundamentals and risk management in an industry that offers the benefits of gas as an energy source when natural gas is not available. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.

I would welcome your questions now, should there be any?