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February 22, 2010

Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator John McKinney
Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee:

My name is Abner Burgos-Rodriguez, I work Standard Oil, a family owned petroleum distributor located in Bridgeport. I am here today in opposition to H.B. 5119, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP ACCOUNT AND GROUNDWATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT STATUTES

The title of the bill includes the words "minor revision". Let me explain to you how MAJOR this bill is. If an underground petroleum storage tank has a suspected leak, the owner is compelled by law to contact the Department of Environment Protection (DEP). This bill, in the event the DEP responds to the suspected leak, would not allow the tank owner to apply to the program that helps us clean up the environment.

If I had to come up with a definition of the opposite of "minor revision" H.B. 5119 would be it! If proposing a bill that would prohibit a local Connecticut family owned company to access a Program that they pay into minor, I would hate to see what a major revision is.

If our tanks are in compliance with the law, our taxes are all paid up and we were not negligent, we should not be barred from utilizing the Tank Program to help us keep the environment clean, our gas stations open and our employees working. H.B. 5119 ends all that just in the event that DEP shows up to a "suspected release" – not a willful, reckless, negligent act – just because they showed up.

I ask that the Environment Committee oppose H.B. 5119, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP ACCOUNT AND GROUNDWATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT STATUTES.

Sincerely,

Abner Burgos-Rodriguez