



# Consumers Petroleum

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

Environment Committee:

I am submitting testimony 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.

My name is Rich Wiehl, I am President Consumers Petroleum located in Trumbull, CT. We are a local, family owned petroleum distributor started by my grandfather. We also operate the Secondi Truck Stop in Milford.

As the operator and supplier to several dozen gas stations in Connecticut, my company, my customers, themselves small businesses, and the people I employ rely on the Tank Program to satisfy the Federal Government's requirement to establish "financial responsibility" for any petroleum release that may occur. H.B. 5119 threatens to render the program inoperable and would negatively effect a tank owner's ability to clean up unintentional releases.

Consumers, like most petroleum distributors, work hard to ensure that underground storage tanks do not leak. We go to great lengths and expense to make sure our tank's are in compliance with local, State and Federal regulations. The Tank Program exists in the event that things do not go as planned.

If we suspect a leak, we now contact DEP and take immediate action to remedy the cause of the suspected leak. As H.B.5119 is written, if DEP responds to our call, my company or customer would be barred from accessing the Tank Program and reduce our ability to clean up the environment.

This legislation would punish tank owners who are in compliance with the law. It creates a lose-lose situation. If we report a leak, and DEP shows up, we cannot access the Program. If we do not report a leak, we cannot access the Program.

Connecticut businesses need a Tank Program that serves the best interests of the environment and complies with Federal Law. The current Program fulfills that need, and H.B. 5119 would make the Program non-compliant, and impact our ability to keep the environment healthy.

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,

*Rich Wiehl*

Rich Wiehl  
President