

# *Cumberland Gulf*

March 7, 2011

Dear Environment Committee:

I am providing this testimony to support S.B. 1113 that establishes the Connecticut Commercial Tank Insurance Fund. The Fund will replace the Connecticut Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program which is now significantly underfunded, and based upon recent history, very likely to be insolvent in the near future.

Among other benefits, the proposed Connecticut Commercial Tank Insurance Fund, which derives its funding from a 42 cent per barrel (1 cent per gallon) fee on gasoline imported into Connecticut, and established strict controls for its allocation, will allow commercial tank owners to continue to meet requirements set in federal law for UST operation, it will provide funds to conduct clean-ups of petroleum discharges thereby protecting drinking water and the environment, and it will maintain and create jobs for petroleum marketers and environmental remediation professionals.

The current source of funding, the Connecticut UST Program, now provides only a small portion of clean-up costs for properties impacted by discharges of petroleum. The Program is significantly underfunded after years of cuts and it appears clear that funding is not far from being eliminated. Since 2008, the Program has been cut from \$12 million to its current level of \$2.9 million, and proposed additional cuts (to levels just above \$1 million/year) are now jeopardizing the very way owners/operators will do business. Given the circumstances, doing nothing is not a solution and could result in businesses shutting down resulting in lost jobs and a reduction in tax revenues.

Please support Connecticut business and the environment by supporting the Connecticut Commercial Tank Insurance Fund.

Sincerely,

Martin F. Hilfinger  
Senior Project Manager, Environmental Affairs  
Cumberland Gulf Group of Companies