

Consumers Petroleum

there for you ... since 1936

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March 7, 2011

To: Chairwoman Daily
Chairwoman Widlitz

Members of General Law Committee:

I am a proud member of the business community in Milford, Connecticut. I represent Consumers Petroleum and over 150 employees that we currently employ. As one of the over 4500 small businesses in Connecticut that sells tobacco products, I am here today in opposition of the proposed SET increase in the great state of Connecticut.

Consumers Petroleum, a family owned business has worked hard over the years to meet the demands of the community and provide opportunities to Connecticut residence through employment opportunities and small business ventures.

I ask you to please consider the concerns of our many employees, dealers and customers when evaluating the proposed \$4.00 per carton increase in cigarette excise tax and the near doubling of the tax rates applied to the other tobacco products.

Our chain suffered an 8.5% decrease in cigarette pack volume in 2010. A big part of this decrease is associated with the increase in state and federal excise taxes. Cigarettes account for about 52% of our store sales. Cigarettes and other tobacco products are essential to the success of our business. Losing tobacco sales like this is bad for my business and provides no tax revenue to Connecticut.

We are all facing tough economic times, even the state of Connecticut. I ask you today to choose a path that does not harm so many of Connecticut's small businesses.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Smith
Director of Retail Operations
Consumers Petroleum