



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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RANKING MEMBER
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In support of
H.B. 5744, AA Prohibiting Gasoline Zone Pricing

General Law Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, Senator Witkos, Representative Rebinbas and members of the General Law Committee:

I am submitting testimony today in support of H.B. 5744. Everywhere I go people from Fairfield County express their outrage because of the unfair pricing that is established by gasoline industry suppliers. Basically, Fairfield County drivers have become a revenue grab. Zone Pricing as we know, is the practice of oil that continues to charge drivers who live in certain zip codes more for gas than drivers in other parts of the state. Wholesale oil distributors benefit from this practice.

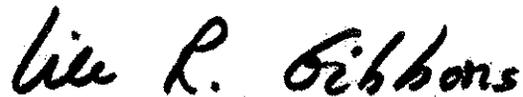
This issue has been debated in Connecticut since 1997. I am fully aware of the opposition that exists to prohibit the practice of zone pricing. Proponents of zone pricing argue that if Fairfield County drivers get a break in their price at the pump, their constituents will have to pay more since the distributor expects to receive the same amount. But I ask you, is it fair that after a wholesale gas distributor leaves the terminals in New Haven and distributes gas first to Stamford and then Greenwich, charges one price for the gas to the Stamford gas station retailer, and a second higher price to the retailer in Greenwich, I think not.

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What we need to remember is that zone pricing is arbitrary and unfair and places a burden on everyone, especially families who are struggling as it is during these difficult economic times. Asking Fairfield County to pick up the tab just because of its zip code is completely wrong and unjust.

I would be more than happy to meet with you and discuss this issue further. I thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lile R. Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lile R. Gibbons
State Representative
150th House District