

CURVED GLASS DIST.
72 CHAPEL ST.
DERBY CT.

Testimony in support of
Proposed Bill 5283-An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work
Insurance & Real Estate Committee Feb 17,2011

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee my name is Mark Vece I am the president of Curved Glass Dist. A family owned business, with locations in both Derby & Enfield Ct. We employ approx. 90 full time employees. We are a glass wholesaler, our customer base is the independent glass shop.

The current system of national glass shops (the largest of which is European & South African owned) answering the phone for insurance companies makes it extremely difficult for the independent glass shop to get the job.

Be assured that the independent glass shops would be competitive in price, they often do insurance work for less money than these large multi national corporations. As far as quality most of these glass shops owners in Ct. do all or some of the installations themselves and since their best advertising is word of mouth or repeat business, you know it's in their interest to do a quality job.

Obviously it is in the interest of these large companies to do the work themselves the only way the local shop in your neighborhood get the job is they have to be asked for, as you know many of us are intimidated by the insurance company and are afraid to not do what they say for fear of being dropped or have our rates go up. It's true that they do pass out a very small percentage of work that they can't get to or don't want to do.

Also you should know that the 2nd largest glass chains was purchased by Safelite Glass Co. the largest auto glass claim /installation shop and they closed most of their locations in Ct. laying off dozens of people.

We have been serving the independent glass shops since 1945 and in our history we have never seen it so difficult for them to get work to survive. We believe if you pass this bill the citizens of CT. will be getting a better product at a more competitive price. And it will help keep good paying jobs here, not only for the glass installers but also for the companies like ourselves that supply them.

Again thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and I urge the committee to support Proposed Bill 5283 An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work

Mark Vece

President, Curved Glass Distributors