

House Bill HB-5082

Dear Committee Members

My name is Dom DelVecchio I own a gasoline service station in North Branford, CT. I'm concerned about the implications of Bill 5082 and that the current funding deficiencies in the underground storage tank fund may jeopardize continued certification of the program by the federal government. Connecticut gasoline service station owners are insured against a catastrophic spill or release of gasoline by the underground storage tank fund providing the owners can demonstrate that the service station is in full compliance with all state mandated regulations for underground storage tanks. The gasoline service station owners are liable for the first \$10,000 in cleanup costs with any remaining costs associated with a catastrophic pollution event covered by the underground storage tank fund. The gasoline service station owners without this fund would need to be self-insured. A majority of the privately owned gasoline service stations could not afford to obtain this insurance and would be forced to close or discontinue gasoline sales. The underground storage tank fund is currently funded through the gross receipts tax on gasoline sold in Connecticut and provides more than sufficient funding to adequately fund the underground storage tank fund. Unfortunately, the revenue generated by the gross receipts tax on gasoline is being diverted to the general fund to satisfy other liabilities that the State of Connecticut has incurred. As many of you are aware the gross receipt tax and the state excise tax on gasoline sales is second only to the state income tax in producing the second most reliable source of revenue for the State of Connecticut. The program is currently approx. 80 to 100 million dollars underfunded because funding from the gross receipts tax has been diverted to cover other obligations incurred by the State of Connecticut. The underground storage tank fund is currently administered by the Department of Environmental Protection with all claims reviewed and processed by DEEP staff members for eligibility and final payment. The funding of this program must be restored as intended with revenue generated by the gross receipts tax.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dom DelVecchio". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "DelVecchio".

Dom DelVecchio