

March 16, 2012

Co-Chair Edward Meyer

Co-Chair Richard Roy

Senator Andrew Roraback

Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee:

Hello, my name is David Crosby. I am the owner of Ferry Boulevard Sunoco, a full service gas station with auto repair in Stratford. My father started this business in 1965. He died in 1994 and I have run it ever since. I purchased the property from my mother in 2001. I am here in opposition to S.B. 375, AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP PROGRAM.

The DEEP proposal to eliminate the state run underground storage tank fund will have a devastating effect on my business. I recently tried to get a quote for the required pollution insurance from two companies. However, since my tanks are three years from their required removal date, both these companies would not give me a quote. So now I am faced with the decision to replace my tanks early. This would cost me at least \$300,000 solely so I can purchase the required insurance.

I am also concerned that if my tanks leak, the current reimbursement delay will financially cripple me. Under DEEP's proposal, the reimbursement would be at least two to three years behind. There are probably three to six hundred dealers like me in the state that may not be able to afford to stay in the gas business. Is the legislature okay with letting the DEEP eliminate us? Will the consumer be better off? You can bet a lot of the full service gas stations like me will be gone. Large oil companies' and big box retailers can self insure; small dealers like my gas station cannot. This legislation is giving away my business to big oil and big box retailers.

Based on DEEP's own numbers, less than three percent of the claims are from small dealers like me. The gross earnings tax is a fair and equitable vehicle to run this program. It just needs to be funded in accordance with EPA guidelines. What is the difference to the consumer if big oil is allowed to raise the prices we all pay to fund their pollution costs, and eliminate dealers like myself? All the state needs to do is to increase or reallocate the gross earnings tax to fund the program.

Now say this act took effect and I stopped selling gasoline. In my own small station, I would have to lay off five of my own employees. Consider this; I am only one out of at least 3 to 600 small stations.

I urge you to oppose S.B. 375, AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP PROGRAM.

Thank for your time, and I welcome any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

David Crosby

Owner - Ferry Boulevard Sunoco