

Written testimony of
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 2B
CT General Assembly**

Reference: S.B. No. 267 An Act Concerning Clean and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Good morning Senator Meyer and Representative Roy and other distinguished members of the committee I am Mike Morrissey, from Glastonbury. I am also the Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent our local trade association members who provide propane gas service to our state. I am here to ask for your support **(RAISED) S.B. No. 267 An Act Concerning Clean and Alternative Fuel Vehicles.**

Private fleet owners need your help. In order for a private fleet owner to operate on alternative fuels, they must up-fit the engine at a cost of \$4000 to \$10,000 per vehicle. That is a lot of money. At the moment, there is a "healthy" discount in the price of propane autogas vs. gasoline and diesel fuel. However, when you look back in time, this price disparity varies. Private business owners do not like to make sizable capital investments based on "shooting targets". They prefer to make investments where their returns can be confidently calculated. Restoring the incentives we lost in 2008, will assist private business owners in projecting important Return on Investment calculations. Exempting private fleet owners from Connecticut from Excise and Gross Earnings taxes

for a period of five years, is something the private fleet owner can really “take to the bank”.

Reducing dependency on foreign oil in our state is not going to start with consumers. I don't think they can make the “numbers” work for passenger vehicles. Private fleets who decide to operate on propane autogas or any other viable alternative to gasoline or diesel fuel are in the best position to make a difference today. When private fleet owners start to use less gasoline and diesel fuel, consumers stand to benefit from simple supply and demand economics.

For the first time that I can remember, the private fleet owner may be finally running out of patience with the high cost of gasoline and diesel in our state. These higher costs are starting to really impact the financial viability of the private fleet owner and the OEM manufacturers like Ford and General Motors are sensing this as well, offering Private fleet owners extensive vehicle choices that operate on alternative motor fuels.

Let's give the private fleet owner a little help and assist them in getting “tooled up” to run on propane autogas or any other viable alternative for that matter! This makes good sense for Connecticut and it could really make good sense for consumers later on.

I would be happy to answer any questions now. Thank you.