

March 16, 2012

Co-Chair Edward Meyer

Co-Chair Richard Roy

Senator Andrew Roraback

Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee Members:

My name is Abner Burgos-Rodriguez, I work for a family owned gasoline and heating oil marketer located in Bridgeport. I am here today in opposition to S.B. 375, AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PETROLEUM CLEAN-UP PROGRAM.

The Tank Fund ensures that leaking underground storage tanks are addressed to prevent contamination of ground water. The revenues' from the Gross Earnings Tax (GET) used to fund the Tank Program are more than ample to maintain the current funding level of this program. In fact, over the last six years this programs funding has been cut to \$250,00 even though tank owners are owed \$17 million in approved claims and another \$81 million in pending claims.

Because of the backlog the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) is going to pull Connecticut's certification. That means that the 1,400 Connecticut businesses (most of which are mom and pop's) that rely on the Tank Program to meet EPA's requirements, would be out of compliance resulting in potential gas station closings, increased cost of gasoline and loss of jobs. Not to mention that contaminated properties would go un-remediated.

The Tank Program is an investment that returns good jobs, competitive gas prices, tax revenue and a clean environment. The cuts that the Tank Program has endured threaten all of the good that it has provided Connecticut's economy, environment, businesses and citizens.

I ask that you oppose S.B. 375, and work with the industry to find a solution that works for everyone.

If you have any questions I would be happy to address them.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Abner Burgos-Rodriguez  
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