



March 20, 2012

Re: SB 450

Written testimony of Frederic H. Lord, Treasurer of HOP Energy, LLC

Chair Fonfara, Chair Nardello, Members of the Committee on Energy and Technology

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Fred Lord and I am a resident of Cheshire, CT, representing HOP Energy, LLC. HOP Energy employs 286 employees in the state of Connecticut. Of these 286 employees, 109, or 38%, have been with the company for more than 10 years, and 159, or 56%, have been employed by the company for more than 5 years. HOP Energy serves over 37,500 accounts throughout the state of Connecticut. Our company has been in business in Connecticut for 17 years. In total, there are approximately 600 independently owned and operated heating oil businesses in Connecticut that employ 13,000 Connecticut citizens. We live here, support the communities we serve, we pay taxes and create and maintain jobs here. I am writing in opposition to SB 450.

HOP Energy is asking to have two sections removed from the SB 450. Section 1 opens the door for establishing new state taxes on heating oil. We oppose this provision, as we do not want our customers, or any heating oil customers, to pay a higher price for heating oil. Connecticut raised taxes by over \$1.5 billion last year and our customers cannot afford another tax increase.

We also oppose Section 4 of SB 450 which requires the conversion of buildings using heat oil to convert to natural gas. We oppose this section as it forcibly takes away our customers and hands them over to multinational, multi-state natural gas companies. It also may be a shortsighted move, as now one can predict in the long term with certainty how prices and supply will behave in a free market.

In closing, we respectfully ask that Sections 1 and 4 be removed from SB 450 as they are harmful to our customers, our employees and the oil heating industry.

Thank you for your consideration,

HOP Energy, LLC

By: Frederic H. Lord
Frederic H. Lord

Its: Treasurer