

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to state my objections on SB 450.

First of all, with the current state of the economy, I would find it extremely hard for my customers to give any more money to the State of Connecticut than they already do. My next objection would be that my customers are already paying a tax for renewable energy every time they pay their electric bill. In speaking with my customers, who already place a lot of blame on the government for the high cost of gas and home heating oil, I do not think any of them would appreciate their local government adding to their already staggering energy bills. Home heating oil is a necessity that anybody I know does not believe should be taxed. Every day I hear of more people leaving our state because they can not afford to live here any more. It is getting harder for Connecticut's residents and businesses to stay to live and start or expand any business that would help the economy.

As for making it mandatory to switch from one energy source to another, I feel it is an extreme and potentially long term disaster by the State of Connecticut. Historically home heating oil has been a much better deal than natural gas. What is to say that this will not again be the case in the next few years. How is the State of Connecticut going to explain this to their voters, when they are the cause of this decision. Also I can not believe the government has the right to basically shut down hundreds of family owned businesses and give their customers to a competing business. I know a lot of voters would not be happy if a company they choose to do business with is shut down by the State of Connecticut, and they are forced to do business with a large impersonal corporation. We at Jennings Oil, and most of our home heating oil competitors have known our customers personally for years. Most of the people in the State of Connecticut choose to do business with small family owned businesses that they see in their communities on a daily basis. I always have believed in free enterprise, and that the government does not have the right to interfere with what has made our country the envy of every other place in the world. Thank you for letting me explain some of my thoughts on SB 450 that I feel would hurt a lot of people in the state of Connecticut

Sincerely,

Robert Jennings  
Jennings Oil Company