

**Submitted Testimony to the
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday March 20, 2012, Room 2E at 11:00AM

**Reference: Raised S.B. No. 450 AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY
CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Mike Morrissey is Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association who represents our local trade association members who provide propane gas service to the State of Connecticut.

We strongly oppose this bill unless the following changes are made to it:

AMMEND TO EXCLUDE:

Sec. 1 (NEW) and Sec. (NEW) 4 these sections of the bill must be excluded in their entirety.

The above sections would certainly lead to new taxes on fuel oil and likely propane. Currently, a 10 million dollar excess in gross earnings funds does not exist and if it fails to materialize, a new tax would be inevitable. This would be unfair to consumers who use deliverable fuels and the 15,000 industry people who bring it to them on a daily basis.

In Section 4 again, the bill picks natural gas over fuel oil, as an energy winner. This is not fair to consumers who desire energy options. Limiting energy choice is not good for the Citizens of Connecticut. There is no guarantee that future prices of natural gas will continue to be lower than fuel oil prices. Consumers should be allowed to hedge what they believe is in the best for them.

AMMEND TO INCLUDE:

Sec. 3 (NEW) this section of the bill needs to include a transportation pilot program that would include vehicles powered by PROPANE.

Sec. 23 (NEW) this section of the bill needs to be expanded to include vehicles that operate on propane. The use of lanes designated to for high occupancy travel should be extended to propane powered vehicles as well.

Propane is the third leading motor fuel in the world. In 2007, over 13 million vehicles world wide were operating on propane. Propane is an approved, clean fuel listed in the Federal 1990 Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and is abundantly available in Connecticut. Over 90 % of propane is produced right here in America, much of it from the same wells that produce natural gas.

The State of Connecticut should not limit alternate fuel vehicle pilot programs to natural gas which effectively penalizes rural communities without it. For those communities who do not have natural gas, propane is available and they should be allowed to use it in pilot programs as well.

Finally, our state should permit everyone operating vehicles on propane to utilize the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane as a reward for reducing our dependency of foreign oil and improving the air that we breathe.

Submitted written testimony of
T. Michael Morrissey, Morrissey Consulting, LLC
332 Strickland ST, Glastonbury, CT 06033
860-280-8027
Morrissey.consulting@cox.net