

February 28, 2012

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle
Co-Chair Joseph J. Taborsak
Senator Kevin D. Witkos
Representative Rosa C. Rebimbas

Members of the General Law Committee,

I am a resident of Middletown and a representative of Mutual Oil Company. **I am here today to urge your support of bill number 5021, AAC COMPETITIVE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PRICING AND HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PERMITTEES.** Mutual Oil distributes fuel to small business owners throughout Connecticut who own and operate convenience stores (c-stores).

We support bill 5021 for the following reasons:

- Petroleum service stations with c-stores in Connecticut are at a competitive disadvantage with abutting States where beer is allowed to be sold at c-stores;
- “Big Box” retail giants are allowed to sell beer and market our core business of gasoline, while we are unfairly restricted from selling beer;
- The business climate in which we do business is slowly eroding the small c-store owner who is at a disadvantage with our antiquated Blue laws;
- The passage of this bill would stimulate business and revenue for Connecticut by creating a fair business environment and allowing c-stores to compete with c-stores in abutting States;
- Consumers would be empowered with more choices as to where they would like to purchase beer;
- Increased competition would provide better prices for consumers.

I ask that you please endorse bill 5021, end the Blue laws and allow for a fair and competitive business climate in the State of Connecticut for all businesses.

Respectfully,

George Sousa
Marketing Representative
Mutual Oil Company