



March 5, 2012

Good Afternoon Chairmen Guerrero and Scribner, thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee today.

My name is Gail Williams, today I represent my company ACI Distribution a Connecticut based certified minority woman owned Company that is a distributor of natural gas fueled fleet and sustainable transportation Solutions Company. The reason for our involvement in introducing compressed natural gas is what we believe to be the best alternative clean transportation fuel for U.S. fleets and we want to push our commitment to sustainability well beyond the confines of business as usual. Currently we have municipal clients in NY, NJ and also in North Carolina. Of which Natural Gas Vehicles are the products we provide because of initiative such as **House Bill 5369**.

It is with this said and with the incredible enthusiasm and diligence of Co Chair Guerrero and Representative Carter along with the collective efforts of my trade Allies Yankee Gas and UIL Companies that I have the incredible opportunity to speak before you and the Transportation Committee today.

In case you are wondering I am here today to speak in support of **House Bill 5369 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL FLEETS**.

My endeavors for Alternate Fuel began in 2008 when I lost my job in Technology for the 3rd time since Sept 11, 2001. Because my background is in Sales and marketing there were no corporate jobs to speak of so I decided to start networking trying to find jobs as a consultant for business development strategies. After months of searching I was fortunately hired by a previous client –a small business in Bridgeport that provides Janitorial services. They hired me to research and deliver a presentation to Yale University on “Green Cleaning” on the cleaning company’s behalf. On another occasion, my mother asked if I could be a speaker at her annual Speakers event for her chapter of the American Association of University Women on a subject of my choosing. Keep in mind that these women were 70 plus years old and wanted to learn something new- I asked my mother if they would like to learn about “Going Green”? Mom mother said “yes sounds great!” So I did a modified version of the “Green Cleaning” presentation. After attending the presentation and knowing I did not have a job my son who was 8 years old at the time urged me to get a job trying to save the planet. This was the beginning of my consulting company’s sustainable endeavors. So to learn and educate others about “going green” I started partnering with several subject matter experts in various aspects of “Going Green” and collaborate on a book publishing a book on “Effective Green Techniques 1.0.1 –Going Green for Everyday People in 7 days” in which a chapter alone was to be dedicated to Alternate Fuel transportation-Natural Gas in particular. At the time I did not know any experts in Alternate Fuel Transportation- so for this chapter I researched and wrote this chapter. This chapter I believe was the most significant because this seemed to be where anyone could be impactful since everyone has some form of transportation. Since publishing this book I have dedicated all my personal resources to this to Alternate Fuel initiatives. I have worked tirelessly over the past 3+ years of which includes



making day trips to Washington DC having met with Congressman Larson's staff to offer support to his legislative endeavors related to Greening Fleets. In addition with the assistance of Congressman Murphy I had a meeting with the GSA Fleet Director to understand their vision for the "greening" our Federal Fleets and being educated on how I can assist as a vendor.

Through the support of my other constituents in CT I even have the great fortune to had a fruitful discussion with former oil tycoon and now Natural Gas evangelist T. Boone Pickens regarding a model that target only fleets. With this Pilot Program legislation that we are discussing today his vision could be realized!

If passed **House Bill 5369** will have an incredible effect on the residents in CT environmental life but it would have a positive effect on the residents of CT economic lives. This bill if accepted has the potential to create hundreds of jobs for working class and middle class residents in CT because it will provide construction opportunities, station attendants, IT jobs, merchant services and mechanic jobs just to name a few. In addition it will allow for REAL revenue opportunities that do not "rob Peter to pay Paul". Meaning we have the Natural gas here and it will replace a resource that we really have no control over and have to fight for and receive very little revenue. But most importantly it will save the municipalities money!

As a small business owner in CT that whole-heartedly believes in CNG as a transportation fuel and relies on it for economic gain, I spend my days and nights on educating businesses and municipalities on the benefits of using Natural Gas as a transportation Fuel. Some of those municipalities who have expressed interests are: Stamford, Norwalk, Bloomfield, West Haven, Newtown, and my home town of Danbury to name a few. But as a resident of CT I believe you as legislators of CT are doing the responsible thing by considering legislation that supports the use of CNG as a transportation fuel. This Bill can start to pave the way of reducing the cost of doing business in the state of CT. Very importantly we have a NJ based partner that is willing to set operation in CT to provide the CNG conversions supporting this initiative.

In closing, I truly believe the time has come to give OUR Congressman John aka "The Father of the Natural Gas Act" Larson the support he is due from his own state. It is time that we reduce our dependency on foreign oil, use our domestic resources to their maximum potential and create jobs that span across all economic classifications in the State of Connecticut.

With all this said I strongly urge you pass HB5369 because it not only make "Green Sense" it makes dollars and cents!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I welcome any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail H. Williams