

Written testimony of
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Transportation Committee
CT General Assembly
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Reference: RAISED BILL NO. **H.B. No. 5369 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL FLEETS**

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Good morning Senator Maynard and Representative Guerrero and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Mike Morrissey, from Glastonbury. I am the Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent the propane marketers of Connecticut who provide propane gas service to every community in our state. I am here to comment on **H.B. No. 5369 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL FLEETS.**

The propane industry likes the concept of this bill and we encourage more bills that would stimulate the use of domestically produced alternative fuels to power municipal fleet vehicles. What we don't like about this bill is its narrow scope, which in its present form, endorses natural gas fuel only.

Many municipalities in our state do not have natural gas available to them. For those municipalities who do not, this bill is unfair. This inequity can be easily remedied by expanding the scope of fuel to include propane.

For a hundred years now, propane which is produced from the same wells as natural gas has been used by consumers who do not have natural gas available to them. For those municipality's who do not have natural gas available to them, propane is available and these municipalities should have the same opportunity in seeking assistance in developing a pilot program to operate their vehicles on a domestically produced, alternate motor fuel, propane.

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. More importantly, an alternate fueled vehicle program featuring propane gas can be established more quickly and for a lot less money, than a program featuring natural gas, due to the cost of the refueling station.

We encourage you to expand the scope of this bill to include propane. This makes good business sense for municipal budgets and will not leave any municipality out in the cold when it comes to developing a test program which features the use of a domestically produced, alternate motor fuel.