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Energy Solutions for a Greener Tomorrow

Co-Chair Gary D. LeBeau
Co-Chair Chris Perone
Senator Scott L. Frantz
Representative Gail Lavielle

My name is Jim Hickey, I am the General Manager of Gault Energy located in Westport. I am here to day in opposition to HB 6650.

A tax on heating oil is senseless. It adversely affects the low income energy program and will reduce the benefits to its recipients. It will dramatically impact the poor and keep many from being able to provide adequate heat and hot water to their families.

This tax is unnecessary and is contrary to the governors no new tax pledge. Where is this money going, how will it help those who use oil for heat and hot water? Special funds don't work. The state gasoline gross earnings tax was designed to fund pollution clean-up. That tank fund was eliminated last year and the tax flows entirely into general fund. The legislature ended the program but still millions of dollars are collected each year, what is that money used for. It would be too tempting for legislators to raid any new revenue fund that is created as they did in 2003 with the energy tax incentives.

The tax is unnecessary. Through technology, heating oil equipment has already reduced fuel usage by 35% over the past 40 years through efficiency gains made by the industry. There already exist incentives at the federal and state levels: a federal tax credit is available for those purchasing high efficiency heating equipment. There is a CT state sales tax exemption on purchases of high efficiency equipment.

This tax is not good for you, me or anyone in Connecticut. Please reject HB 6650.

Sincerely,

Jim Hickey

General Manager
Gault Energy