



Dominick Fuel Inc.

Dedicated To Your Comfort And Our Environment

March 19, 2013

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

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Commerce Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **opposition to H.B. 6650**, which would place a tax on home heating oil for the first time.

Good afternoon, chairman LeBeau, chairman Perone and members of the committee. My name is Joe Dominick, Jr., representing Dominick Fuel in Norwalk and I am here to testify against H.B. 6650, that would tax heating oil. Dominick Fuel was started by my grandfather in 1945 and so we have strong roots in our community in Norwalk and with the thousands of customers we serve throughout Fairfield County. We sell heating oil and provide HVAC service to our customers and were one of the first in our area to offer biofuels, which is a domestically produced blend that reduces our fuel's carbon footprint. While I am here on behalf of my families business, I am also here to speak on behalf of our customers.

I can not disagree with the intention of this bill to conserve energy, but I absolutely disagree with how it intends to accomplish its goal – with a tax. New taxes don't save energy – the oil dealers in this room do that with highly trained technicians and their ability to work with their customers to help them decide when it is time to upgrade to new high efficiency heating equipment.

We work with our customers in good times and bad to make sure that they are warm. We accomplish that by addressing their needs and educating them on how to become as efficient as possible.

Over the last few months our industry has been under assault by the state. In October the Governor announce that he had an "energy plan" that would take 300,000 of our customers and give them to the natural gas monopoly, then the Finance Committee raised a bill to give millions of tax dollars to the utilities to convert oil customer to gas, then the Energy Committee had a bill that would lower the regulatory threshold to help encourage our customer to switch fuels and now a tax on oil.

This bill is just another attempt for the state to pick winners and losers. My family owners company and the 600 other in Connecticut like ours cant afford this tax and our customer cant afford it either!

On behalf of my family and our customers ask that the Commerce Committee **oppose H.B. 6650**.

Respectfully,

Joey Dominick