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13

Testimony of Joseph U. Rose
Before the CT Commerce Committee
March 19, 2013
Re: HB 6650

Hello my name is Joseph Rose. I am the President / CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England. I am here today in **opposition** to HB 6650 representing our 650 plus member companies, 91 of whom are CT based.

Connecticut consumers purchase over 112 million gallons of propane annually and that quantity has risen over 18% in the past 5 years as propane has become more abundant, affordable and American produced. The US is a net exporter of propane and has been since 2011. Propane comes from the same wells that produce natural gas and is a byproduct of the refining of crude oil.

HB 6650 is another attempt to unfairly tax consumers in CT. Everyone in CT uses electricity and already pays a fee for energy conservation on their electric bill. If more funds are needed for efficiency programs, why not use the existing collection structure?

There has been a pledge of no new taxes. This is a new tax. Some would say that the money will go into a segregated fund for a specific purpose. I say that Connecticut has a long and storied history of raiding such funds to balance the budget and there is no reason to think this fund would be any different.

We encourage the collection of efficiency funds to be fuel blind by only collecting them once from each citizen on electricity bills which consumers are accustomed to.

Simple transparent taxation always makes the most sense, especially in the current economic environment where consumers are still struggling to make ends meet and the Governor has promised no new taxes!

This is a bad bill, please do not move it forward.