

Dear Rep. Salemi,

HB 6650 must be defeated. Raising taxes on anything is totally unacceptable in this economic climate and in light of the fact that Connecticut is already the most highly taxed state in the union. While you may say that this is just a small tax -- a couple of cents per gallon, when added to the gross receipts tax, it becomes more than significant. Also, keep in mind that only five or six years ago, the diesel fuel tax, which now stands at over 51 cents per gallon was just 18 cents per gallon. There is no way to insure that this tax will not also run away.

I do not consider myself to be a "poor" person. I own a business and make a decent living doing so, but I keep my thermostat between 55 and 60 degrees all winter because of the cost of fuel. To add any further price increases to this is unsustainable.

I am aware that the Governor has stated that he wants the state to become less reliant on oil and more dependent on natural gas, but natural gas has its problems as well -- just recently there was another gas explosion. We have had several explosions in Connecticut over the last twenty years killing many people. I cannot remember the last time a heating oil tank exploded.

While encouraging people to upgrade to more energy efficient furnaces is a laudable goal, increasing taxes is just a bad idea. We just had the largest tax increase in our history (and I'm pretty sure that the outrageous increases in fees and registrations were not considered part of that huge tax increase) with the last budget and our state government is still borrowing money to meet operating costs! Instead of looking for ways to spend more money, you need to concentrate on ways to cut state spending! We, the taxpayers of Connecticut, CANNOT AFFORD ANYMORE TAXES!

If you really believe that this a valuable program that is worth continuing, find something that can be eliminated to offset the cost of this program rather than raising taxes on home heating oil. It is what we, as business people and just "regular" people have been doing for years.

Thank you for your attention.

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Peggy