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Heating Oil
BioHeat
Propane
Plumbing
Air Conditioning
24 Hour Service



My name is Peter Aziz, and I'm the owner and President of Bantam Fuel, an energy provider in Litchfield, CT, and I'm here to speak against House Bill 6650, which aims to impose a tax on home heating oil, propane, and kerosene.

My company employs 50 people who live and work in the state, and we serve about 4,500 homes in Litchfield County with the fuels you want to tax.

There are only 2 reasons why a society taxes its citizens:

To raise revenues through taxes such as the property tax

To manipulate behavior through the so-called sin taxes, like the cigarette tax

I'd like to know which this is.

Is it a Sin Tax? Has the State's Legislature concluded that our products are sinful? That fully half of all CT residents, like smokers, gamblers, and alcoholics, have made a legal but foolish choice? And the government knows better and will give them a painful disincentive to get them to change their ways?

Or is this simply a way to raise revenue? If so, could you possibly think of a more regressive way to raise revenue than by taxing HEAT?

There is a social contract between the government and the government: We allow the government to tax us and spend our money for the social good, in exchange for certain assurances: That we won't be policed repressively, and we won't be taxed regressively. This tax violates that trust. If, instead of cutting expenses in the state budget, you've decided to tax HEAT, then I'm here to tell you that the social contract has just been shredded.

So which is it? Is it a Sin Tax to manipulate people's behavior, and the Government knows better than 1.8M people? Or has the social contract been shredded in an orgy of uncontrolled government spending, and you've decided to tax HEAT, and you expect the people to pay for it, even if they're living below the poverty line?

Let's face it... This is a lose – lose for you, and I'm just curious to know how you look at it. Is this the action of a government DESPARATE for revenue and incapable of saying NO to spending? Or is this the action of an overweening government that knows better than half of all its citizens, willing to punish them without regard for their ability to pay?

Which is it?

Peter Aziz