State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Energy and Technology Committee
Public Testimony
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Dear Senator Duff, Representative Reed, Senator Chapin, Representative Hoydick and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of H.B. No. 6534 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING GASOLINE VAPOR RECOVERY SYSTEMS.

This bill attempts to decommission Stage II gasoline vapor recovery systems installed at gas stations, and to require a pressure decay test of Stage I vapor recovery systems. This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent that owns a gas station here in Connecticut.

Beginning with the 1998 model year, on-board vapor recovery (ORVR) systems were installed on specific models of passenger cars and light duty trucks. ORVR systems have been required on all passenger vehicles since 2000. The use of onboard devices is now so widespread that Stage II systems at the gas stations are no longer necessary. New vehicles with the ORVR technology have replaced so many of the older vehicles without on-board technology that the emissions benefit from Stage II programs no longer justifies the cost of either installing new or maintaining existing Stage II systems.

According to a recent Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) study, these systems cost Connecticut gas stations $6,650,000 a year in total to maintain. In fact, according to the study, in 2014, these systems will lead to increased air pollution due to an incompatibility issue that exists with the onboard vapor control systems that have been installed in new vehicles since 1998.

In order to help Connecticut's small businesses while improving the environment, I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6534.