



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing –March 7, 2013
Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel C. Esty
Presented by Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

Raised House Bill No. 6534 - AN ACT CONCERNING GASOLINE VAPOR RECOVERY SYSTEMS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 6534 - AN ACT CONCERNING GASOLINE VAPOR RECOVERY SYSTEMS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

DEEP strongly supports this bill. This bill removes the requirement that gasoline-dispensing facilities install Stage II vapor recovery systems, and requires decommissioning of existing Stage II systems by July 1, 2015.

In response to a Clean Air Act (CAA) requirement, Connecticut adopted a Stage II program in 1991 as a means of controlling emissions from the refueling process at gas stations. Gas station owners install Stage II devices on the gas pumps to capture the vapor emissions displaced during the fueling process. The vapor captured by Stage II devices contains volatile organic compounds, a precursor to the formation of ozone, which can be harmful to public health.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intended the Stage II program requirement as a temporary program, until such time as an alternative approach to controlling gasoline refueling vapors was in widespread use. In 1996, EPA began to phase in the alternative approach, the installation of vapor recovery systems on vehicles, called on-board vapor recovery (ORVR). ORVR has been required on all passenger vehicles since 2000.

On May 9, 2012, EPA made the determination that ORVR was in widespread use in the national vehicle fleet and waived the requirement that states require Stage II vapor recovery. An independent study commissioned by DEEP confirmed EPA's date of widespread use in Connecticut. As the newer motor vehicle fleet with ORVR replaces the aging fleet of vehicles without ORVR, the gasoline vapors captured

by Stage II programs decrease.¹ With fewer older vehicles in the fleet, Stage II programs have reached a point where the emissions benefit no longer justifies the cost of installing new Stage II systems or maintaining existing ones.

In addition, DEEP's independent study concluded that 94% of gasoline dispensed in the state is dispensed through incompatible vacuum assist stage II systems. When ORVR-equipped vehicles refuel at gasoline dispensing facilities that use these systems, there can be an increase in emissions due to incompatibility between ORVR and vacuum assist systems. Therefore, decommissioning of these systems will have a positive environmental impact.

Removal of the Stage II requirements is also consistent with the Governor's goal of reducing regulatory burdens on Connecticut businesses. The Department's study concluded that the cost of decommissioning a Stage II system is less than the annual cost to maintain that same system.

Removing the requirement that gasoline-dispensing station owners install and maintain Stage II vapor controls will reduce harmful emissions by recognizing the improved emissions control technology and save Connecticut businesses money. In summary, DEEP supports Raised House Bill No. 6534 - AN ACT CONCERNING GASOLINE VAPOR RECOVERY SYSTEMS.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 860-424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.

¹ ORVR began with certain model year 1998 new gasoline-powered light duty motor vehicles (passenger cars and light trucks), with full phase in by model year 2000 for other classes of gasoline powered motor vehicles.