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New England Convenience Store
Association

**CONNECTICUT
CHAPTER**

Testimony Submitted By:
NECSA CT Chapter
To the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 18, 2013

RE: S.B. 1095

**Statement of Support by the CT Chapter of the New England Convenience Store Association for
Senate Bill 1095 An Act Eliminating the Increase in the Petroleum Products Gross Earnings Tax**

Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Widlitz and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1095 concerning Eliminating the Increase in the Petroleum Products Gross Earnings Tax. NECSA believes that this bill is a positive measure for the State of Connecticut, consumers and for the business community.

The membership of NECSA consists of independent, family owned convenience/fuel stores, independently owned franchise stores as well as chain-operated convenience stores. Many of our members' locations sell gasoline. According to the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), there are currently 1500 convenience stores in the Connecticut and over 18,000 people are employed in in the convenience store and fuel retailing business (data collected and reported by TD Linx, Dec. 2011).

Senate Bill 1095 would halt the scheduled upcoming increase in the petroleum products gross earnings tax. Connecticut has the highest gas taxes in New England and has one of the highest gas taxes in the country. Those who work in the retail gasoline business can readily tell you how difficult it is to compete in such a highly regulated industry with low profit margins. We are consistently losing business to competing states with lower tax cost structures. Passage of S.B. 1095 is a step in the right direction for our state in terms of recapturing some of these cross-border sales.

NECSA believes that S. 1095 will help Connecticut businesses keep and create jobs and we ask for your support of this bill. Thank you very much for your consideration of our position on this matter.