

February 21, 2013

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle

Co-Chair David A. Baram

Senator Kevin D. Witkos

Representative Dan Carter

Members of the General Law Committee:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of family-owned Hendels, Incorporated located in Waterford, CT. I appreciate being afforded the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. No. 440, H.B. No. 5045 and H.B. No. 5607, all of which would force retailers like our family-owned business to **absorb debit card fees which are imposed upon us by major banks such as JP Morgan Chase and Citibank, and credit/debit card companies like Visa/Mastercard.**

Should you determine that users of debit cards should not have to pay the fees imposed upon retailers by the Too-Big-To-Fail banks and Visa/Mastercard, then you should **legislate against those responsible for, and benefiting from, those fees—not** those organizations like ours who are at the bottom of this business “food chain” upon whom these fees are imposed!

We would be delighted if debit cards were free. But they are not. All we are doing is retrieving from the user of a debit card the fee which the big banks/credit card companies charge us! We are not making one single penny for accepting debit cards.

If any of these bills were to pass, our locally-owned business will be forced to increase the price of gas for all purchasers, which will then hurt cash-paying customers and discourage us as well as our competitors from offering cash discounts. Talk about a law having unintended harmful consequences!

However well-intended these bills may be, they are extremely misguided.

Thank you for considering this written testimony.

Doug Hendel