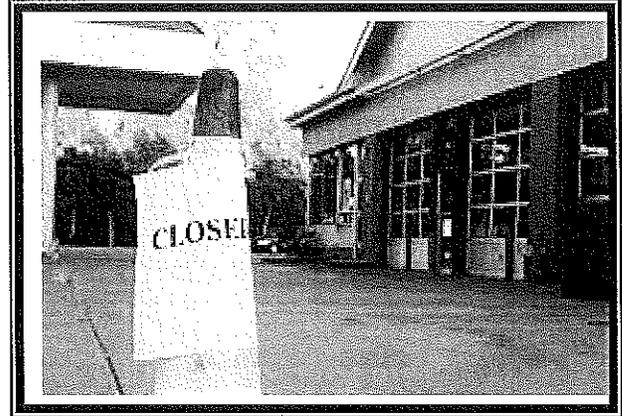


***GASOLINE & AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
DEALERS OF AMERICA, Inc.***

1. New Lebanon Ave, Greenwich, CT. 06830

OFFICE 203-327-4773 FAX- 203-323-6935 Web Site – www.gasda.org

*Our Members are responsible for selling over 60% of the gasoline
sold annually in the State of Connecticut!*



SBA Report: Small Business Continues To Fuel the Economy!

President Obama - Small Business must be the Forefront of Recovery!

**Gov Malloy: As Mayor of Stamford, I worked every day not only to create jobs in the city,
but also to provide economic security by promoting a thriving economy as Gov I will
make sure Connecticut Becomes Competitive!**

THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE IT!

GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

By Michael J. Fox, Executive Director

***Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America, Inc.
Connecticut Based Trade Association Representing Gasoline Retailers,
Independent Automotive Repair Shops, Towing Operators and Car Washes***

February 21, 2013

Co-Chair Senator Paul R. Doyle
Co-Chair Representative David Baram
Vice-Chair Senator John Fonfara
Vice-Chair Representative David Kiner

General Law Committee:

GASDA represent 450 members and they are responsible for selling over 60% of all gasoline sold in Connecticut. Over the last 5-years, GASDA members have purchased approximately 300 locations from the Major Oil Companies. This has kept jobs here in Connecticut rather than selling locations which end up for other than service station use and prevent the ranks of the unemployed from growing further at a time when the state can least afford more unemployment claims!

We are submitting testimony opposing proposed Senate Bill 196, AA restricting Credit Holds, proposed Senate Bill 440, AAC Debit Card Purchases, proposed House Bill 5045 & 5419, and 5607 all these bills deal with having Debit Card transactions at the cash price when cash discounts are offered.

These bills, while the intentions are good are directed at the wrong part of our industry. Service station and Convenience Store owners/operators do not set the rules and policies for credit holds or fees charged for using credit cards. In fact, our industry has filed a joint class action lawsuit seeking the right to negotiate some of these fees and policies and this lawsuit has met with huge opposition from the likes of Visa, MasterCard and the banks who issue these cards.

Bills of a similar nature came before this committee last year. They were defeated and nothing has changed. We still pay fees on debit card purchases and this is the reason why the discount offered can only be for the cash price or that cash price will be higher to consumers to offset these fees.

Addressing SB-196, retailers have no control over credit holds but it is my understanding that these credit holds are part of the rules of a credit card and are fully disclosed to consumer. It is also my understanding that any laws on credit card holds, fees etc. must be done at the Federal Level and the States cannot enact laws on Credit Card Companies such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express. We wish you could, but Federal Law is Federal Law.

Prior to the Discount for Cash Law being passed GASDA, Jobbers and the Department of Consumers Protection all worked together. This was to insure that a sticker was placed, which consumers, easily could read, and so they are fully aware of what they have to do in order to receive a discount for cash. Our industry went further and the sticker shows that Debit Cards will be charged at the Credit Price. See picture of sticker here.

Once Connecticut passed this law, in less than one year Discount for Cash also became Federal Law and has provided for discounts for consumers across the entire country, not just Connecticut. We respectfully request this is a good law providing consumers with choices, business owners with the ability to offset huge credit card fees and has been working since passed. Those that seek to expand the law are well intentioned, but business owners will quickly stop offering Discount for Cash.