



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR TONI BOUCHER**  
TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 3701  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-0465  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-0036  
E-mail: Toni.Boucher@cga.ct.gov

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

### **Testimony in Support of SB 440, An Act Concerning Debit Card Purchases Of Gasoline**

By Senator Toni Boucher

General Law Committee, February 21, 2013

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos and Representative Carter, and other distinguished members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 440, An Act Concerning Debit Card Purchases of Gasoline.

In recent years the rising cost of gasoline has added considerably to the cost of living and doing business in our state. Connecticut residents and commuters traveling through can expect to pay some of the highest gas prices in the nation at a time when many of them cannot afford the extra expense.

Many of these customers purchase gas with their debit cards, which add to the cost of the transaction. Both credit and debit card purchases carry a transaction fee which the bank or credit card company charges to the station owner, and which is passed on to the customer. In contrast, state law allows gas stations to offer a discount to customers who pay with cash rather than a debit or credit card. This incentivizes cash transactions which save money for both the customer and the gas station.

Although both debit and credit card purchases carry a fee, the transaction fee for debit cards is lower than for credit cards. Some credit card companies charge gas stations up to 3% for each transaction. The fee for debit cards is significantly lower than this, and the cost to the retailer is closer to a cash transaction than a credit transaction. Despite this, customers are often charged at a similar rate for regardless of whether they use a debit card or a credit card. SB 440 would rectify this situation by requiring gas stations to charge the same discount price for both cash and debit purchases.

I urge the General Law committee to give its support to this bill as a step toward reducing the financial burden on Connecticut residents. Thank you for your consideration.