

Written testimony of  
William J. Cummings – Vice President of Operations  
HOCON GAS, INC.  
6 Armstrong Road  
Shelton, Ct. 06468

860-334-5005

[wcummings@hocongas.com](mailto:wcummings@hocongas.com)

Energy & Technology Committee

PUBLIC HEARING 11:00 A.M. in Room 2C of the LOB

Thursday February 20, 2014

CT General Assembly

**Reference: Proposed H.B. No. 5117 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A CLEAN ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE.**

Good morning Senator Duff and Representative Reed and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Bill Cummings and I reside in Preston Connecticut. I am the Vice President of Operations with HOCON GAS, INC. headquartered in Shelton. Hocon Gas operates out of branches in Norwalk, Guilford, Danbury, Torrington and Waterbury and is Connecticut's largest independent marketer of propane. Hocon has been in business since 1952, employs over 120 people and serves approximately 35,000 customers in Connecticut. Today, I represent our company and I am here to speak in support of **H.B. No. 5117 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A CLEAN ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE.**

Before I continue, Senator Duff, David Gable, owner of Hocon, wanted to be here today but due to a family commitment, was not able to be here. He has asked me to appear on his behalf.

Hocon Gas is the proud propane autogas supplier to the City of Shelton. This past August the city of Shelton purchased 62 Blue Bird School buses that operate using clean burning, domestically produced propane gas and joins many other School districts in the United States that operate on propane autogas to both save money and benefit the air that we breathe.

Hocon Gas was also involved in helping the City of Torrington, who purchased 40 Blue Bird propane powered school busses, by building their propane fueling station. Both cities fleets are up and running well this school year.

In order for the Cities of Shelton and Torrington to enjoy the advantages of propane autogas, the Cities first had to make a decision to purchase vehicles equipped to operate on propane. That decision was made and the vehicles were acquired. We believe these municipalities set a great example to our state when it comes to acquiring vehicles which operate on alternative fuels.

As such, our state needs to amend its statute by expanding the definition of "Alternate Fuels" beyond only electricity and natural gas to include propane as well. H.B. No. 5117 does exactly that and will expand the options available to our state when it comes to giving special consideration to alternate fueled vehicles.

We strongly support this bill. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.