

Written testimony of  
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Transportation Committee

PUBLIC HEARING 10:30 a.m. Room 2E of the LOB

Wednesday March 3, 2014

CT General Assembly

**Reference: Proposed S.B. 333(RAISED) AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE GROSS EARNINGS TAX PROPANE GAS USED AS A FUEL FOR OVER-THE-ROAD VEHICLES**

Good morning Senator Maynard and Representative Guerrero and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Donald Cusson from Ellington and the owner of Cusson Automotive located in South Windsor. Today as the Owner of an Automotive and Truck service center and our employees, I'm here to speak in support of **S.B. 333 (RAISED) AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE GROSS EARNINGS TAX PROPANE GAS USED AS A FUEL FOR OVER-THE-ROAD VEHICLES**

For some time now, our country has been putting its best foot forward to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by creating ways to stimulate the use of alternate fuel vehicles. In response to this stimulation, Ford Motor, Roush, GM, Blue Bird Bus and Freightliner have and are aggressively developing vehicles that run on propane more commonly known as *Autogas*. In addition to OEM produced vehicles, many companies like CUSSON AUTOMOTIVE, are providing aftermarket vehicle conversion equipment and services featuring EPA and CARB certified Liquid Propane Fuel injection technology.

Cusson Automotive has been working in the field of propane conversions for a few years and as a Bi-Fuel Conversion Facility we see a keen customer interest in the technology and the environmental and economic benefits it provides. In today's world every business is daunted with the cost of doing business. A fleet of vehicles is one of their biggest expenses, maintenance and fuel cost is a constant challenge. Propane motor fuel can cut the vehicle operating cost by as much 40% per mile.

At the end of last year, we lost a Federally Funded tax credit of 50 cents per gallon for vehicles operating on propane and natural gas. This has negatively affected ROI calculations for private fleet owners who are converting and investing in vehicles to operate on propane.

Supporting S.B. No. 333 would reduce the cost of propane by approximately 20 cents per gallon and place it on a level playing field with natural gas which is not subject to gross earnings taxes and would modestly improve the ROI calculation for my customers.

Eliminating the gross earnings tax on propane will help my conversion business grow and as we grow, it will allow me the ability to add jobs by employing more conversion technicians to assist our growing list of customers who wish to operate on propane autogas.

I thank you for your time and interest if there are any questions I would be happy to answer at this time