

Testimony of  
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PUBLIC HEARING of the  
Transportation Committee

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CT General Assembly

**Reference: Proposed S.B. No. 333 (RAISED) AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE GROSS EARNINGS TAX PROPANE GAS USED AS A FUEL FOR OVER-THE-ROAD VEHICLES**

Good morning and thank you for having me here today. My name is Jon Holstein, Vice President of Spicer Gas in Groton, CT. Spicer is a family owned propane company serving residential, commercial and industrial clients in Southeastern CT. I'm here in support of SB 333 which promotes the increased use of propane as an alternative fuel for over the road vehicles.

Propane is a remarkable and versatile fuel; it heats homes & businesses, garages, pools, provides domestic and commercial cooking, clothes drying, decorative fire logs, zone heaters, stand by electric generators and much more. Propane comes from the same wells and out of the same refining facilities as natural gas and it is almost 100% domestically produced.

It is also the leading alternative transportation fuel in the world with over 19 million vehicles in operation today. It is more widely used than Natural Gas because of its portability and lower cost dispensing infrastructure. It also provides almost identical environmental and emissions benefits to that of natural gas.

However; in our state, propane is not treated equally when it comes to gross earnings tax. Propane is subject to a tax of approximately 20 cents per gallon and Natural Gas is not. This creates a competitive disadvantage that must change. S.B. No. 333 offers to make the change we seek, levels the playing field and provides private fleet owners with an additional incentive rather than a tax penalty, to operate their vehicles on propane auto gas. We strongly encourage your committee when it comes time to vote on this bill, to pass this legislation.

Thank you for allowing me the time to testify today. I'm available to answer any questions should you have them.