

Written testimony of
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Transportation Committee

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CT General Assembly

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

Propane, also known as Natural Gas Liquid, is produced from the same wells as Natural Gas. Hocon Gas designed and installed a propane autogas dispensing system and is the 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 designed and installed the propane dispensing system for All Star Bus Company who contracts bus service to the City of Torrington. The City of Torrington purchased 40 Blue Bird propane powered school busses. 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.

In the future we believe that more municipalities, commercial fleet owners and private vehicle owners will look at propane power to fuel their school busses and other vehicles. The passage of **SB No. 333** will bring a much needed tax incentive for this alternative fuel. Fleet operators in the state who choose propane as an alternative fuel should experience the same benefits as those who use Natural Gas which is exempt from this tax. The passage of this bill will expand the options available to our state when it comes to giving special consideration to alternate fueled vehicles.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions