

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Regarding Proposed - SB 299

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle

Co-Chair David A. Baram

Senator Kevin D. Witkos

Representative Dan Carter

General Law Committee:

I am submitting testimony in opposition to S.B. 299, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PREPAID CONSUMER HEATING FUEL CONTRACT GUARANTY FUND.

I, David Sousa, representative for J&A Waterville Oil Service, Incorporated, member of Connecticut Energy Marketers Association and the Connecticut Better Business Bureau, strongly oppose this proposed bill that will adversely affect home heating oil dealers in the state of Connecticut. I am in line to be a third generation owner at J&A, and I represent the views and beliefs of current ownership. I feel that this bill is unfair to both companies and consumers for multiple reasons:

First, this bill unfairly places a stigma that all home heating oil dealers in the state of Connecticut have poor business practices, ethics, and are generally un-trustworthy. This is a terrible, stereotypical assumption and generalization based upon the actions of a minutia of all heating oil dealers in the state. To be categorized as a criminal because of the actions of a handful of individuals is, quite frankly, a slap in the face. Even worse, it is coming from the very state we all have lived in, paid taxes to, and supported, on a day in and day out basis, for decades.

Second, this bill would place an added burden and cost on home heating oil, not only to the dealer, but the consumer as well. In a time where home heating oil costs are as high as they are, it would be excessively detrimental to institute a tax that would make the cost of heating ones' home or business even more difficult. Home heating oil dealers would be made a scapegoat for someone's home freezing up; as opposed to the real culprit that instituted another tax burden to its people.