



ALTERNATIVE FUELS COALITION OF CONNECTICUT

Written testimony of
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Transportation Committee
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CT General Assembly VIA EMAIL: nick.neeley@cga.ct.gov

Reference: Proposed H.B. No. 5943 AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES FROM THE MINIMUM VEHICLE OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE'S HOV LANES.

Senator Maynard and Representative Guerrera and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Mike Morrissey, from Glastonbury. I am also the Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent members of the **Alternative Fuels Coalition of Connecticut**, an organization who seeks advancement of **Propane Autogas** in our state. I am submitting comments on H.B. No. 5943: AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES FROM THE MINIMUM VEHICLE OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE'S HOV LANES.

Conceptually, we are in favor of this proposed legislation for it rewards drivers who operate fuel efficient vehicles by allowing them access to high occupancy lanes by waiving the minimum number of occupants. Our coalition would like to see this same benefit extended to drivers who operate their on propane autogas and other clean burning alternate transportation fuels such as electric and natural gas vehicles.

Currently, propane autogas is the most popular alternative motor fuel in the world with in excess of 25 million vehicles in operation today. Most alternate fueled vehicles must be up-fitted from the factory or in the field at a significant incremental cost to conventional fuels and requiring a registration fee would be punitive and a disincentive and this section of the bill should be dropped.

We encourage our state to create more legislation like this to stimulate the use of more fuel efficient and alternative transportation fuels in Connecticut.