



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 13, 2015
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted and Presented by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

Raised House Bill No. 6730 – An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Stage I Vapor Recovery Restrictions and Sulfur Content Requirements for Distillate Fuels

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised House Bill No. 6730 – An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Stage I Vapor Recovery Restrictions and Sulfur Content Requirements for Distillate Fuels**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to raise this bill at the request of DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, focuses on providing a means to effectively implement fuel quality standards adopted by the General Assembly in 2013.

Gasoline vapor emissions control (Stage I)

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 13-120 to update vapor control standards at gasoline dispensing facilities in Connecticut. That Public Act phased out Stage II emission controls, designed to reduce vapor emissions during vehicle refueling, and improved Stage I controls, designed to reduce vapor emissions during gasoline deliveries to gasoline storage tanks, by increasing the frequency of testing of the systems from once every three years to annually. The enhancement of the Stage I controls was required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fulfill anti-backsliding requirements due to the decommissioning of Stage II units. While the Public Act made testing more rigorous, there were no provisions to improve DEEP's capability to address improperly functioning Stage I equipment. This proposal would allow DEEP to use "Red Tags" to shut down improperly functioning equipment until it could be repaired or replaced, reducing potentially harmful emissions into the air. A "Red Tag" program has been effectively utilized in DEEP's Underground Storage Tank (UST) program.

Home Heating Oil

Public Act 13-298 also limits the sulfur content of home heating oil sold in Connecticut to 500 ppm beginning in July 2014, and 15 ppm as of July 2018. However, DEEP, which has expertise in regulating the sulfur content of distillate fuel burned in industrial and electric generating facilities, lacks enforcement authority for home heating oil. This proposal would authorize DEEP to regulate home heating oil in line with its current fuel sulfur standards for other distillate fuels.

Raised House Bill No. 6730 – An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Stage I Vapor Recovery Restrictions and Sulfur Content Requirements for Distillate Fuels will allow DEEP to ensure that the standards adopted by this Committee are applied fairly and achieve their intended public health benefits. The burning of fuel oil contributes significantly to Connecticut’s sulfur dioxide and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions. Both Sulfur Dioxide and PM_{2.5} are harmful pollutants that can impact the health and welfare of Connecticut’s citizens and our environment. Exposure to these pollutants can result in significant health impacts, particularly among the young, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions like asthma. The pollutant reductions realized by effective enforcement of these two standards will help DEEP to meet the federally mandated National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and PM_{2.5} and the regional haze commitments made in conjunction with the Mid Atlantic New England Visibility Union (MANE-VU).

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP’s Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).