



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIMONY OF DEPUTY SPEAKER LINDA ORANGE, 48TH DISTRICT
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Public Hearing
March 18, 2015

Representative Berger, Senator Fonfara and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill No. 5655, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAXATION OF PAINT USED IN MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR.

This bill is before you at the request of a local business of mine, a constituent and longtime friend. Colchester, CT is home to a locally owned and operated auto parts supplier that has thrived in my community for over 30 years. In addition to their automotive products, the company boasts a large selection of auto body paints. Throughout its operation, the company has only been audited twice – each time without significant issue. However, an audit conducted just last year found the company liable for nearly \$60,000 in unpaid taxes on its sale of auto paint.

It is my understanding, and the long-time premise of this business that taxes are not collected on wholesale paint sellers. Rather, the untaxed paint is sold to auto body repair shops who in turn apply a tax on consumers in the execution of their trade. For the state to apply a tax on both the wholesaler and retailer of auto paint is double dipping.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill as it would provide much needed clarity on the collection of taxes on wholesale auto paint and ultimately improve the collection of taxes on auto body retailers.

Thank you for your time.


Linda Orange