

Testimony of  
**Anthony Setaro**  
**Jet Spray Car Wash**

*Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee*

**S.B. 337 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE SALES TAX ON CAR WASH SERVICES**

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Chairman Berger, Chairman Fonfara, members of the Finance Committee.

I am Anthony Setaro Owner of Jet Spray Car Washes in Waterbury, Founded in 1989 by my parents that I now operate and run.

I'm here to testify in support of **S.B. 337 AN ACT ELIMINATING THE SALES TAX ON CAR WASH SERVICES.**

The addition of the new sales tax on car washes has significantly hindered our ability to survive, because we are not able to collect this tax with the mechanical systems our industry has in place.

This unfair burden on small family owned businesses, creates an uncertainty that holds us back from reinvesting, expanding, and hiring new employees. These three actions are the cornerstone of any business small or large, which in turn promotes a better climate for expansion and growth and ultimately more tax revenue for the State.

Understanding the mechanical inability to collect the tax from our customers is a real dilemma for our businesses and the tax directly impacts our livelihood.

If this tax is not repealed, it will have a direct impact on our ability to survive in our part of the State and will have many long lasting ramifications for many of the car washes in our state - less employees, resource depletion and a negative environmental

impact from citizens having to do more home washing. We all know the saying: "*What goes in the ground goes in the sound*". Car washes not only send all discharge to environmental sanitary sewers for treatment, but we use far less water than any open hose home washer.

The hurdles we face as small businesses have soared over the last 10 years. Increased commodity costs, special assessments on unemployment, rising energy costs and an increase in just about everything associated with doing business.

Add the new tax on our already stressed businesses and we are facing an extremely troubling economic impact and hardship for our businesses.

Finally, I want to thank the leadership of this Committee for taking the time to meet with us and listen to our concerns about this new tax and thank everyone we have met in the last few months who truly took the time to hear us out.

I believe if you look at the real impact of this newly imposed tax, you will come away with the understanding that largest issue here is threat to our survival as small businesses in our State.

Any help you can provide to us to help repeal part or all of this tax would have an enormous positive impact for our businesses and others within our great State of Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.