



March 14, 2018

Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: CHCC Opposition to House Bill 5363 concerning a “carbon tax”

2018

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Dear Chairmen Demicco, Kennedy, Miner, and Ranking Member Harding:

On behalf of the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), we write to urge you to reject House Bill 5363, “An Act Establishing A Carbon Price For Fossil Fuels Sold In Connecticut”.

As a trade association representing independent heating & cooling companies in Connecticut, CHCC typically endeavors to be “fuel neutral” or “fuel blind” as an organization, leaving any such fuel choices or preferences up to our contractors and their customers. We are deeply concerned, however, that this legislative proposal, which essentially establishes a carbon “tax” on fossil fuels, is unnecessary and would serve to harm not only our customers, but also our state’s economy as a whole.

Natural gas, propane, oil and other fossil fuels are utilized as widespread, efficient and increasingly “clean” energy sources for home and business heating equipment and appliances, so placing a tax on their use and consumption will be harmful to our industry and our customers. Additionally, adding to the price of gasoline through this new tax will impact our contractors’ directly by increasing their costs to operate their service vehicles and equipment.

While CHCC supports and promotes various energy efficiency measures and technologies, there is no reasonable amount of efficiency savings that can be achieved in today’s market to offset the potential cost increases on our customers that a carbon tax would impose on their necessary fuel sources.

Instead of anti-competitive and anti-consumer proposals such as HB-5363, CHCC would encourage the legislature to consider measures that would help us reduce costs, be more competitive and provide job opportunities and learning experiences in the heating and cooling trades for Connecticut’s future workforce, including the promotion of energy efficiency measures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHCC

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Glastonbury, CT 06033

O: (860) 533-1163

www.chcca.net

Jennifer Jennings
Executive Director

Joe DeFusco
President

Organized in 1972, the Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association is an independent non-profit trade association with membership open to all state licensed merit shop heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning contractors, sheetmetal contractors and plumbers that employ licensed mechanics according to state law. It is also open to associate members representing manufacturers, wholesale suppliers, dealers, and other HVAC related firms and affiliate members including technical school instructors and building officials. Our objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures.