

Testimony of
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ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY Committee
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Connecticut General Assembly

H.B. No. 5002: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL

H.B. No. 5380: AN ACT REDEFINING "CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE" TO INCLUDE CERTAIN USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY GENERATED FROM BIODIESEL AND CREATING A HOMEOWNER-GENERATED USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY PROGRAM.

Chairmen Needleman & Arconti, ranking members and distinguished members of your committee, I am Mike Morrissey and I am here in support of H.B. No. 5002 & H.B. No. 5380.

First, here is the “deal” on the Green New Deal; 40% of all of Connecticut’s greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the transportation sector. Of this 40%, 44% of these emissions are generated by the medium and heavy duty vehicles. The reason we have such dirty air in Connecticut is because we **simply use too much gasoline and diesel fuel** to power this segment of the vehicle population, which primarily consists of trucks, buses and transit vehicles. Going forward, if we really want to start to clean up the air that we breathe, we have got to find a way to more aggressively utilize the designated alternatives to conventional fuels. The Department of Energy sometime ago identified these following “alternatives” to conventional fuels;

America’s Leading Alternative Fuels per U.S. Department of Energy¹

Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles

More than a dozen [alternative fuels](#) are in production or under development for use in [alternative fuel vehicles](#) and [advanced technology vehicles](#). Government and private-sector vehicle fleets are the primary users for most of these fuels and vehicles, but individual consumers are increasingly interested in them. Using alternative fuels and advanced vehicles instead of conventional fuels and vehicles helps the United States conserve fuel and lower vehicle emissions.



Biodiesel ▶

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that can be manufactured from vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled cooking grease for use in diesel vehicles.

🚛 Diesel Vehicles ▶



Electricity ▶

Electricity can be used to power plug-in electric vehicles, which are increasingly available. Hybrids use electricity to boost efficiency.

🚗 Hybrid & Plug-In Vehicles ▶



Ethanol ▶

Ethanol is a widely used renewable fuel made from corn and other plant materials. It is blended with gasoline for use in vehicles.

🚗 Flexible Fuel Vehicles ▶



Hydrogen ▶

Hydrogen is a potentially emissions-free alternative fuel that can be produced from domestic resources for use in fuel cell vehicles.

🚗 Fuel Cell Vehicles ▶



Natural Gas ▶

Natural gas is a domestically abundant gaseous fuel that can have significant fuel cost advantages over gasoline and diesel fuel.

🚗 Natural Gas Vehicles ▶



Propane ▶

Propane is a readily available gaseous fuel that has been widely used in vehicles throughout the world for decades.

🚗 Propane Vehicles ▶

¹ <https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/>

Although vehicle electrification is an option, for the medium & heavy duty vehicles, it is not viable and or affordable at the moment and into the foreseeable future. Natural gas and propane Autogas are “**shovel ready**” today to assist our state in reducing emission and achieving its ambitious and statutory lower emission goals. In the heavy duty sector, natural gas especially amongst many of our State’s Refuse Haulers, is working well.

In the medium duty sector, propane Autogas is catching on. Five years ago, the cities of Shelton & Torrington switched all of their diesel buses to operate on propane Autogas. Since this time, other communities like Danbury, Simsbury, New Milford, Newtown and Waterbury collectively operate almost 500 buses on propane Autogas. Nearby, Boston Public Schools operates 247 propane Autogas buses with the goal of operating all school buses on this fuel.² Nationwide, there are over 17,000 propane Autogas school buses carrying almost one million children a day³. Propane Autogas is not an experimental fuel, its is the third leading transportation fuel in the world with over **27 Million** vehicles in operations today.

Allowing the use of conventional fuels is detrimental to our environment. Alternative fuels like natural gas and propane Autogas are viable today and we strongly encourage our state to find ways to deploy more of these alternatives in the medium and heavy duty vehicle sectors. Propane in particular, is abundant⁴, domestically produced, delivers a 40% - 50% saving compared to conventional fuels and because of it’s portability, is available to all. If our state can find more ways to adopt propane, we will reduce operating cost and harmful emissions. Finally, these alternatives are now supported by our state’s \$57 million Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund.⁵

In regards to **H.B. No. 5380: AN ACT REDEFINING "CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE" TO INCLUDE CERTAIN USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY GENERATED FROM BIODIESEL AND CREATING A HOMEOWNER-GENERATED USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY PROGRAM**, we support this bill and would like to see the language expanded to also include **Renewable or Bio-Propane**. Last November Roush CleanTech⁶ the official OEM Vehicle Upfitter for Ford Motor Company and Blue Bird Corporation in part stated;

“When commercial vehicles are equipped with our ultra-low NOx engines and fueled by renewable propane, they achieve near-zero emissions while still being financially viable for fleets,” said Todd Mouw, president of ROUSH CleanTech. “These clean-operating, medium-duty trucks, vans and buses enable fleets to take a giant leap toward meeting their state’s clean air standards, especially in California.”

Renewable propane although not in wide production now, is viable and we should amend our statutes to accommodate it when it becomes available in Connecticut.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide testimony on these important bills

² <https://propane.com/propane-products/buses/>

³ <https://propane.com/propane-products/buses/>

⁴ There currently is an excess supply of propane in our nation. 20% of all domestic propane production is exported lacking domestic demand.

⁵ https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=587294&deepNav_GID=1619

⁶ <https://www.roushcleantech.com/roush-cleantech-launches-first-available-near-zero-emissions-engines-fueled-by-renewable-propane/>