Tuxis Ohr's Fuel Inc.
80 Britannia St,
Meriden CT 06450

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, Representative Cheeseman, Senator Martin, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee. My name is James Salemme, and I am the General Manager of Tuxis Ohr's Fuel.

Tuxis Ohr's Fuel is a full-service provider of petroleum and propane products to the retail and wholesale market including storage and distribution.

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 5290** ***AN ACT SUNSETTING THE HIGWAY USE TAX***. I **SUPPORT HB 5290** because it would relieve a costly and burdensome new tax. This tax will have an impact on my bottom line at a time when increasing costs make it very difficult to operate my business.

The HUT tax imposed on our business has a multitude of constraints that I am sure no one had thought about when it was derived. First the implementation process took our office countless hours on drafting policies and quantifying the information flow to make sure the process was correct, so we are on time and not penalized

Second was explaining the tax to our end users / customers who had no idea what this tax is about. End users did not accept another tax well, some customers wanted renegotiated contracts as they wanted us to bear the burden of the state tax which then involved many more hours spent by our office staff. We have so far made 2 payments to the state of CT and have yet to collect all HUT taxes passed on to our customers. No business can absorb extra taxes as this takes away funds meant for retention, benefits, and the hiring of employees.

Having an extra tax when the state will receive billions from the federal infrastructure law coupled with the transportation fund running a surplus should be a solid case to relieve our business and the industry of this additional tax burden, especially when the tax burden is not equal and certain sections of the industry are carved out.

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I. The HUT tax alone has cost our company over $11,000 in the first 2 months of 2023.
II. The office Burden calculated out to manage the HUT tax will cost our company about $25,000 yearly.
III. The HUT tax so far has created confusion and anger with our customer base.
IV. The hut tax puts the Ct trucking industry at a distinct disadvantage to our surrounding neighbors.

I stand in strong SUPPORT of **HB 5290.** The sunsetting of this tax will reverse an otherwise inequitable tax scheme. It would provide some financial relief at a time when it is most needed. I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

I respectfully ask that you to support the sunsetting of the highway use tax.