necsema
New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

Peter A. Brennan
Executive Director

February 19, 2026

Committee on Environment
24 Beacon Street
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Recommendation Ought Not to Pass H.5156 "An Act Concerning a Climate Change Superfund"

Dear Senator Lopes, Co-Chair; Representative Parker, Co-Chair; and Members of the Committee,

The New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) represents convenience stores and gasoline retailers, independent transportation fuel distributors, and the businesses which supply them. NECSEMA members own, operate and/or supply the majority of the 2,100 plus convenience stores in Connecticut. Our members are a significant contributor to the state's economy, employing roughly 40,000 people and collecting over $3 Billion in sales and excise taxes annually. Our members play a crucial role in the state's commercial landscape, providing essential goods and services to residents, generating employment opportunities, and contributing to the overall prosperity of local communities.

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to H.5156 "*An Act Concerning a Climate Change Superfund*". While these bills seek to hold large petroleum companies liable for the environmental impacts of climate change in Connecticut, the parties that would ultimately pay for these bills are Connecticut residents – your constituents and our customers.

The tax that these bills seek to levy on energy producers, through a convoluted and arbitrary calculation, will ultimately be paid by every business and person that participates in the sale or use of petroleum products. These costs will inevitably be passed along to consumers in the form of higher energy prices, transportation costs, and goods inflation. The resulting burden will inevitably be regressive as it will fall disproportionately on households of limited means and on small businesses, effectively functioning as a regressive tax that exacerbates energy affordability challenges.

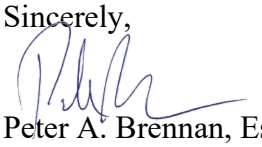
Our retailers know that consumers are already stretched thin due to inflation, high interest rates, record utility prices, and a cooling local job market. The billions of dollars in fees that these bills seek to levy against companies doing business in Connecticut will ultimately be

passed on to consumers and will exacerbate these economic stressors. Connecticut should be looking to relieve the growing costs that our residents are facing, not to add to them.

NECSEMA also represents retailers in Vermont, and previously opposed Vermont's 2024 Climate Superfund Act that has triggered multiple costly legal challenges. If H. 5156 is ultimately enacted, Connecticut will face the same legal hurdles and litigation expenses. These funds would be better spent on programs like the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program or to reduce utility costs for consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Brennan, Esq.