

Apple Oil Company, Inc.
325 Morgan Lane
West Haven, CT 06516
March 21, 2021

Co-Chair Gary A. Winfield
Co-Chair Steven J. Stafstrom
Senator John A. Kissel
Representative Craig C. Fishbein

Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **support** of HB 5125, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ENTITIES THAT HAVE OPERATED PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

My family business employs 45 individuals in the home heating, HVAC, and construction businesses. We have been in business in CT for over 65 years. As essential workers, we have continued to operate throughout this entire past year, bringing heat, hot water, and shelter to thousands of customers. Our employees, like most citizens, were fearful and insecure at first, not knowing what to do to protect ourselves or our customers from this invisible virus. Our employees are like family to us. We followed the protocols laid out for us by the CDC. We spent thousands of dollars on masks, sanitizers, and barriers. We set up customer interaction protocols and segregated workers in the office. We introduced a screening process for our customers so that our technicians operating in the field could operate safely.

This bill protects the good faith efforts of my business and many, many others in CT who have tirelessly and fearlessly persisted and persevered, despite the fear, despite the unknown, in order to provide the goods and services so needed in our economy. The thought that any of us could be subject to liability exposure for a medical virus seems as impossible as suggesting that we would be liable for any other communicable disease such as the flu, tuberculosis, or a common cold. Liability exposure would undermine the very effort we have all made in good faith, and legal exposure could potentially pose financial costs that would bankrupt a small company.

Please support HB 5125, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ENTITIES THAT HAVE OPERATED PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC with changes to accommodate essential industries that require employees to work outside the premises of the entity.**

Sincerely,
Sharon Peterson
Treasurer, Apple Oil Company, Inc.