



President  
WAYNE PESCE

OFFICERS  
Chairman  
CHUCK JOSEPH, SR.  
Joseph Family  
Markets/ShopRite  
First-Vice Chairman  
RUSS GREENLAW  
Adams Hometown Markets  
Second-Vice Chairman  
DEAN DUMAS  
Coca-Cola Company  
Secretary  
DENNIS SILVA, JR.  
Dari Farms Ice Cream, Inc.  
Treasurer  
TIMOTHY M. DEVANNEY  
Highland Park Market  
Ex-Officio  
TIMOTHY DEVANNEY  
Highland Park Market  
JAMES NILSSON, JR.  
Geissler's Super Markets, Inc.

DIRECTORS  
TODGE ARMATA  
Ted's IGA Supermarket  
RYAN BEHNKE  
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group  
JENNIFER BLANCHARD  
Geissler's Super Markets, Inc.  
LUIS CARRASQUILLO  
Goya Foods, Inc.  
DOMINICK CINGARI  
Grade A Markets/ShopRite  
RICHARD COHEN  
Waverly Markets,  
LLC/ShopRite  
ANDREW CROWLEY  
Polar Beverage Company  
GARY DAVIS  
Davis IGA  
BRYAN DEVOE  
Fitzgerald's Foods  
BRUCE DULEY  
BRD Consulting, LLC  
MARK EATON  
Imperial Distributors, Inc.  
ROBERT FUSCO, JR.  
Roberts Food Center  
DAVE GAMBINO  
Wades Dairy  
HARRY GARAFALO  
Garafalo Markets  
LLC/ShopRite  
MICHAEL GOLD  
Big Y Foods, Inc.  
TODD KELLY  
Eastern Sales & Marketing  
MIKE KING  
Krasdale Foods  
ROBERT LABONNE, JR.  
LaBonne's Markets  
GEORGE MOTEL  
Bozzuto's, Inc.  
BRIAN PAGANINI  
Quantum BioPower  
JOHN PIJANOWSKI  
McCormick & Company, Inc.  
CHRIS ROMEO  
West Side Marketplace  
JIM ROWE  
Davidson Company Inc.  
SCOTT SABATINO  
Price Chopper  
JOHN SABBAGH  
C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.  
RANDALL SHAW  
Acosta Sales & Marketing  
JOHN STOBIESKI  
Stop & Shop Supermarkets  
MIKE SUMPTER  
United Natural Foods, Inc.  
DAN TEGOLINI  
Hillandale Farms Conn, LLC  
THOMAS YANDOW  
FreshPoint CT

March 4, 2020

## Statement of the Connecticut Food Association –ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.

Wayne Pesce, President, Connecticut Food Association

### **In opposition** to H.B. No. 5350 AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Connecticut Food Association (CFA) proudly advocates on behalf of the food retail industry. Our mission is to promote the growth of Connecticut's grocery retail community and its supplier network.

We ask that you consider the following implications this legislation could have if passed:

- Eliminates customers' ability to choose how best to heat their homes/businesses;
- Increases customers' heating costs by prohibiting the most cost-effective heating option and forcing them to heat with electricity;
- Does not achieve the desired carbon reductions because increased electricity will be required from the region's natural gas-fired power plants;
- Stifles economic development and job growth for businesses looking to locate or expand in Connecticut;
- In communities that have yet to benefit from natural gas expansion, increases the energy cost to operate taxpayer-supported buildings like schools and libraries.

H.B. 5350 would limit the length of time a natural gas utility has to recover its investments from natural gas expansion. As a result, it will make increasing the availability of natural gas to homes, businesses, and neighborhoods in Connecticut communities cost-prohibitive and will eliminate a reliable, efficient, and desired low-cost energy option.

While we recognize that climate change and addressing the state's energy challenges are of the utmost importance, this proposal as written would have a devastating impact on our business community, residents, and future economic growth.