218th New JErsey Legislature

senate economic growth Committee

HoN. nilsa cruz-perez—Chair

Testimony

Sal Risalvato

Executive Director

New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association

S-2345

SUPPORT

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Committee room 1

Trenton, NJ 08625

**Testimony of Sal Risalvato**

**S-2345: Support**

Chair Cruz-Perez, members of the Committee, my name is Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA), here representing nearly a thousand independent small businesses in this state.

Regulations are, by their very nature, burdensome to businesses. But those burdens do not feel the same to every business. Big multistate corporations have a wide variety of advantages they can leverage against their independent competitors. One of those is the ability to dedicate resources and even dedicated staff to effort of following, influencing, and complying with the multitude of regulations that govern commerce on both the state and federal level. On the federal level in particular, there is a growing concern that the largest companies in the country are actually content to see more regulation, if those regulations will hurt their small competitors more than they will hurt themselves.

Small business owners, like those who are members of NJGCA, are generally working the equivalent of two full time jobs just to keep their doors open and continue to employ the five or ten employees they currently need in order to service their customers. New regulations, even when well intentioned, often mean more effort and more expense.

By forcing the State to consider the impact each and every regulation will have not just on the business community in general, but on the small business community specifically, this bill will help balance the scales a little more in favor of the little guy.

Every business owner has to work out the relative costs and benefits on every decision they make, and they can only afford to move forward with a policy if it is a net positive for them. It is only fair that the State should do the same.

I ask that you support this bill.

Thank you.