



Tennessee Fuel & Convenience Store Association



14 April 2010

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

The undersigned organizations and entities have joined together to express their total opposition to legislative efforts that, if enacted, will result in fundamental and unacceptable changes to Tennessee’s environmental regulatory boards and their impact on our state. The proposed amendment to HB2862/SB 2949 will effectively reconstitute both the process and make-up of a key regulatory board, possibly undermining its effectiveness, its professionalism and its balance.

We are a diverse group that is rarely in total agreement on any issue, but the seriousness of the proposed amendment requires us to speak with one voice to you, our elected representatives. The General Assembly, in its collective wisdom, long ago established a process for regulated companies and governments, as well the environmental community, to nominate to the Executive branch qualified, knowledgeable professionals to serve on regulatory boards. The General Assembly knew, as do those entrusted with making nominations, that it is in the vested interest of each party to identify the best qualified applicants with technical knowledge to represent their stakeholder position on the board.

We now all find ourselves battling attempts to repeal this successful, proven process that ensures qualified, technical expertise from all stakeholders. The authority of the environmental boards through the Executive branch of government is both substantial and absolute. These boards are charged with regulating many aspects of the permitted community’s daily operations and ensuring the health of our citizens and quality of our environment.

Collectively and individually, we ask for a fair, balanced approach to our state's regulatory system. No individual stakeholder controls any environmental board; instead, we have boards that engage in healthy technical discussions and reach decisions in the best interests of Tennesseans. We are asking that this legislatively created process, effective and proven with no problems after more than 30 years, be retained. Quite simply, the system has worked, and we ask for your vote to retain it.

Thank you for your service to our state, and please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors of Middle Tennessee

Associated General Contractors of Tennessee

Tennessee Bankers Association

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Tennessee County Services Association

Tennessee Farm Bureau

Tennessee Forestry Association

Tennessee Fuel and Convenience Store Association

Tennessee Municipal League

Tennessee Paper Council

Tennessee Road Builders Association

Tennessee State Council, American Petroleum Council

Tennessee Wildlife Federation