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To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Ellen Valentino

Date: February 19, 2020

Re: SB 941 Support

SB 941 is a straightforward change that matches the time a business owner can file for a refund if they overpaid motor fuel taxes with the look-back period the Comptroller uses during an audit review. The current law allows for a one-year period to file a refund request for overpayment. SB 941 changes that period to three years.

It is common for motor fuel wholesalers to undergo audits. They collect multi-millions of dollars in motor fuel taxes and are responsible for remitting it to the state. The audits conducted by the state are often like reconciliations and sometimes it becomes clear the business owner has overpaid motor fuel taxes. Under current law, if the business owner has overpaid taxes to the state, they can only request a refund "reconcile" within a 1-year timeframe. If the state is owned additional money, they can request the taxes in a 3-year timeframe.

We believe this change is fair. Current law allows the Comptroller to look back at a business owner during an audit review for 3-years and further if there is sign of wrongdoing. Business owners should be able to file a refund request for overpayment of taxes in the same period.

The bill is a simple fairness issue. Please support the passage of the legislation.