

**Connecticut General Assembly
Energy and Technology Committee
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Testimony of Laura Pence in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

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Last summer, we, the residents of Connecticut were challenged to reduce our electricity consumption by up to 20%. My family decided to accept the challenge, and we made two major changes. One of the changes was to hang our laundry outside instead of using the clothes dryer. What should have been an easy change was actually extremely inconvenient because our condo association, The Crossings, has a regulation against putting up clothes lines. So we made do with unstable clothes racks that blew over in a strong wind and spread our clothes over our garden instead.

My family actually reduced our electricity consumption by over 30%, but that was in spite of the discouragement of our condo association. We all know that money is tight these days for people of all income levels, and I feel strongly that housing associations should not have the ability to prevent people from saving money through the convenience of hanging laundry outside on clothes lines. Yes, we were able to find a way around the regulations, but how many people didn't even try because they weren't willing to accept the hassle?

In addition to the cost saving that my family achieved, we were also extremely proud to be reducing our emission of the greenhouse gases that are leading to global warming. The global warming problem is going to be solved by each citizen making an individual contribution to the answer, and being able to hang clothes outside is an easy method if we are able to put up a clothes line. We are also proud that saving a third of our usual electricity meant that a little less pollution from coal fired power plants reached the atmosphere, that there was a little more electricity to go around Connecticut on hot days, and that we contributed to a little bit less reliance on foreign oil with the cost and political instability that goes along with that source of energy.

No housing association should be able to prevent citizens from having the convenience of hanging laundry outside on clothes lines, especially when it has such significant economic, environmental, and political impacts.

We're going to be house hunting this spring. Neighborhoods where we see clothes lines will be very appealing.