

Connecticut General Assembly
Energy and Technology Committee

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Testimony of Peter Libre in Support of HB
5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

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Electric clothes dryers account for 6% of residential electricity consumption. And unfortunately, they cannot be made substantially more efficient. A household with Energy Star appliances would use twice as much electricity for clothes drying as for refrigeration.

Fortunately, it turns out that clothes dryers are entirely unnecessary. While visiting my Swedish relatives several years, I discovered that very few Swedish households use dryers. Our family has subsequently adopted the non-powered drying habit. We use a line in our sideyard in warm weather; racks and hangars indoors in cold weather.

Our family of six averages \$50 per month for electricity and \$50 per month for gas (we heat our house with wood). An electric clothes dryer costs about 75 cents per load (gas about 50 cents). Since we wash a large load daily, electric clothes drying would add \$20 per month to our electric bill, a 40% increase.

This Act will empower citizens to save money (\$240 per year per household); slow down climate change; reduce the amount of nuclear waste generated; reduce the amount of coal soot in New England air; and lead to fresher smelling clothes.

Thank you.