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**AAC Global Climate Change
S.B. 23**

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Good morning Senator Fonfara, Representative Fontana, Senator Herlihy and Representative Williams. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity voice support for S.B. 23, AAC Global Climate Change. As many of you know, Connecticut was an early leader in recognizing the threat of global warming and as early as 1990 the legislature adopted *An Act Concerning Global Warming* (PA 90-219) which mandated that the State purchase energy efficient vehicles and appliances, revised the building code and established goals for improving public transportation that the DOT was required to monitor. In 1991 the legislature passed an *Act Concerning Global Climate Change* (PA 91-395) that sought to address the GHG emission implications of sprawling development and beginning in 1993 required the Office of Policy and Management to report annual net carbon emissions and to set a goal for their reduction in the State Plan of Conservation and Development.

In 2004 the legislature affirmed the greenhouse gas reductions agreed to by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in PA 04-252 committing the state of Connecticut to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 10% below 1990 levels by 2020. While the state has taken significant steps since then, particularly in terms of adopting California's car standards, becoming a signatory to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and last years energy bill that mandated that utilities invest in all cost effective efficiency programs before contracting for new generation supply, we will not achieve the goals we set in 2004 unless we undertake numerous others measures.

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Importantly, the Administration's bill recognizes this and charges state agencies with developing a plan that will achieve both the Governor's state government energy saving goals and the state's 2005 climate change action plan's target of a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. We agree with the bills implicit recognition that more specific and structured action need to occur if we are to achieve our goals and would suggest that Section 1 of S.B. 23 is intended to achieve the same end that the more specific requirements in H.B. 5600 set out. We will be suggesting JFS language for that bill when it is heard in the Environment Committee tomorrow..

Other specific provisions in S.B. 23 could be merged with the specific steps outlined in H.B. 5600, with the following suggested changes:

Section 4. We assume that the intent here was to raise the amount of the existing grant and would support doing so.

Section 5. However such is funded, replacing inefficient heating systems would provide for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as well as economic savings to consumers.

While we would prefer that specific programs be approved by the DPUC in accordance with current standards used to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of ECMB program, we are pleased that an evaluation of such is called for after the first year. Propane furnaces should be required to meet the same energy star standards as natural gas furnaces rather than the 84% efficiency required for oil.

Section 6. Increased training for so-called green jobs could both help assure that there are enough technicians to provide the services that will be needed as a result of the state's anticipated expansion of energy efficiency programs and help create well paying jobs that will benefit the state's economy. It is unclear whether funding for establishment of these training programs should come equally from the referenced funds.

Section 7. Although a three minute limit on idling is already established in regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection, adoption of a specific statutory requirement for mot buses and the accompanying fine structure could improve enforcement of such.

In sum, we applaud the Governor's recognition of the importance of taking additional steps to assure that the state is taking sufficient steps to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions that scientists tell us are necessary if we are to avoid the most calamitous impacts of global warming. We would urge the committee to work with the Environment Committee to assure that the strongest provisions of S.B 23 and those in H.B. 5600 are enacted this year.