

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF ANN BERMAN, CHAIR OF THE  
MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL CONCENRS COALITION, ECC,  
BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2009. TESTIMONY  
AGAINST THE SUPPORT OF SB 794.**

The ECC is an ad hoc committee out of Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr.'s Office. We have an over 430 members of which I, as Chair, am presently representing the ECC to voice our disapproval of the Bill SB 794.

The ECC constantly makes it our mission to advocate for conservation of all sorts including energy savings, both in the kind of fossil fuel purchased, and in the reduction of its use, the promotion of purchasing clean energy, (of which we as a city have earned nearly 300 citizen participation) and in education and promotion of energy efficiency programs for homes, businesses, schools, etc. and for energy efficient appliances.

This past year the ECC in partnership with our City's Energy Task Force, sponsored two Energy Fairs at our Library. We had many vendors/ exhibitors and a good public turnout. Most of the interest centered around those who could help with home improvements on how to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient and in construction methods for making these improvements.

The idea of consumer rebates does not resonate as a very wise decision, only to make it more costly in sending out a rebate that neither augments the homeowner any savings or help them reduce their carbon footprint. Whereas, keeping the monies in the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funds for education, for instance, can render the homeowner information that will credit them with savings beyond what some two-bit rebate could possible do to help their situation. Also for the State to send out these rebates will cost more in postage, and manpower, than the total value of all the rebates put together. What we need is a win,win proposition not a loss, loss proposition as described in SB 794.

We ask the Environmental Committee not to honor this Bill SB 794 the recognition of passage.

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter.

Submitted by,

Ann Berman, Chair of Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition  
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