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Energy and Technology Committee
March 17, 2009
Testimony of Martin Mador
In Opposition to
HB 6377 An Act Concerning Green Building Regulations

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale. I hold LEED accreditation from the US Green Building Council, and am the editor and chapter author of *Biophilic Design, the Theory, Science, and Practice of Bringing Buildings to Life* (Wiley, 2008).

I have testified on green building bills in the legislature every year since 2002. Legislation requiring green state buildings and schools was finally passed as PA 06-187, 07-213, 07-242 and 07-249. OPM issued the draft regulations for state buildings in March 2008. They were revised after the public hearing April 11, 2008, and re-issued at the end of July with regulations for schools added. The regulations spent the fall ripening in the Governor's office. The Governor's staff informed me that the regulations were sent on the Attorney General's office early in 2009. I have not been able to confirm this.

From my perspective, this has been a seven year process. Once the regulations are accepted by the Regulations Review Committee, we will finally be ready to construct these buildings as we should have been doing for all of this century. The state architect, to his credit, has been constructing some state buildings to LEED standards on his own. Very few schools in the state have been designed to any green building protocol, LEED or otherwise.

There is ***no conceivable reason*** to delay this process yet another year, as HB 6377 would do by the change in effective date in line 45. The regulations for state buildings office have been in the public domain for an entire year; those for schools since last July. Schools funded in this session's bonding bill, HB 6655, will NOT be required to be built green if this bill passes as drafted, although legislation requiring this was passed two years ago.

Sierra vociferously and strenuously objects to the delay this bill would cause.

The bill also changes the applicability threshold from minimum cost to minimum size, and appoints the Commissioner of Public Works as the official to grant exemptions from the requirement. Sierra has no objection to these provisions. However, we request the addition of language that requires that the written analysis of the cost/benefit ratio take into account the enhanced productivity, including reduced absenteeism, of occupants of green buildings.