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*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MARCH 10, 2009*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 6632, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency and the Coordination of Energy Efficiency Programs.

This proposal consolidates a number of conservation and renewable energy programs and agencies into one oversight board -- the Energy, Efficiency and Renewable Resources Board. Currently, electricity and natural gas conservation and efficiency incentives are overseen by the Electricity Conservation Management Board. Fuel oil has its own conservation fund and board. Clean energy and renewable energy have several sources of funds and boards.

This board is a step in the right direction toward the overall goal of streamlining and better coordinating our unwieldy and disjointed energy conservation and renewable programs.

While coordination of these various entities is important, this proposal must also ensure that such programs are operated so as to promote overall statewide goals for energy conservation, energy independence, cost efficiency, and environmental responsibility. The state has established an integrated resource plan for electricity. This plan reviews current use of electricity, projects our future needs and determines how to conserve energy and provide additional generation. The Energy, Efficiency and Renewable Resources Board should ensure that its electricity funding and programs are consistent with the overall goals outlined in the integrated resource plan.

Similarly, the proposal should establish goals for the heating sector -- heating oil and propane. An integrated resource plan should examine our heating usage, present and future, reduction of future demand and allocation of heating sources given our environmental goals.

I urge the committee to amend House Bill 6632 to require establishment of an integrated resource plan for heating sources and mandate that funds and programs managed by the Energy, Efficiency and Renewable Resources Board are applied in a manner that helps the state further its energy policies and meet the goals of the integrated resource plan for heating sources and the plan for electricity.

Thank you.