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Testimony Regarding Bill #776 An Act Concerning the Fuel Oil Conservation Board

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

February 3, 2009

Prepared by Shirley Bergert¹

Recommended Action: Support

This bill makes technical changes to the legislation authorizing the Fuel Oil Conservation Board (FOCB):

- **Modifies requirements for accessing available funding:** These requirements are consistent with those actually utilized by the Comptroller in allowing the FOCB to access funds to implement its plans. This is the first year of operation of the FOCB and it is a unique model, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which expends general fund dollars for fuel oil conservation. This proposed modification reflects an appropriate adjustment of requirements for funding access, based on actual experience.
- **Clarifies audit requirements:** The audits required of the FOCB are not clearly specified in its authorizing legislation, including an accounting audit and the review by the Attorney General's (AG) office. The requirements are clarified in the proposal, including a single state audit for accounting and a review by the AG's office of compliance with state law and generally accepted practices governing operations of nonprofit organizations.

Because the modifications are appropriate technical changes and clarify the intent of the current legislation, the bill should be supported.

¹ Shirley Bergert serves: as the low income representative on the Fuel Oil Conservation Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-22I); as the residential representative on the Energy Conservation Management Board overseeing the expenditure of ratepayer conservation funds in Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-245m); on the Low Income Energy Advisory Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-41b); and on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University.

