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Comments Regarding Bill #1135 AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

March 17, 2009

Prepared by Shirley Bergert¹

This bill proposal has potential for assisting distressed communities. Section 1 of Bill #1131, An Act Concerning Renewable Energy and Weatherization, has a pilot program for efficiency in municipalities. We recommend considering reconciling these sections and focusing assistance on distressed municipalities which could most benefit by the cooperative effort envisioned.

This bill has a job training component. This should be part of the overall planning the state should engage in for effective expenditure of the federal stimulus funding available pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Energy efficiency programs are economic and job development "engines" and we should carefully target the funding to greatest effect.

¹ Shirley Bergert serves: 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); as the low income representative on the Fuel Oil Conservation Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-22f); 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.

