

**Testimony in Support of Raised H.B. No. 5465,  
An Act Concerning the Development of Green Jobs**

I, Gretchen Bishop, Acting President of the Ridgefield Action Committee of the Environment, am writing in support of Raised H.B. 5465, An Act Concerning the Development of Green Jobs, intended to implement the recommendations of the speaker of the House of Representative's Green Jobs Working Group.

Section 5 of this bill would authorize municipalities to issue Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) bonds. Municipalities would then lend the proceeds to homeowners and commercial property owners so they could afford to finance energy efficient improvements to their properties.

Energy efficiency should not be a luxury only the very rich can afford. PACE would enable home and business owners to install energy efficiencies such as increased insulation and small renewable energy systems for heat, hot water and electricity with no upfront costs. The monthly cost of such installations, spread out over many years, would be offset for the consumer by the savings on their energy bills. Thus it would help level the playing field so that those without the resources to pay upfront for improvements can afford them as well.

I live in Ridgefield which is known as a fairly affluent community. Still, I have neighbors and friends who are struggling in this economy. PACE would provide the incentive and opportunity for them to make energy efficient and cost saving retrofits to their homes. It also would address the concerns of those who would like to make retrofits but don't because they will be moving in just a few years, well before they could recoup the costs of paying for retrofits all at once. With PACE, the costs -as well as the energy savings- would be passed on with the sale of the property.

Enabling PACE provides a win-win situation. It will increase jobs in Connecticut. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It would present very little risk to communities that choose (and are not mandated) to issue bonding. Voting 'yes' for Raised H.B. 5465 is voting yes to opportunity for our cities and towns, for our businesses, for our residents. As a resident of Ridgefield and a member of a local environmental group, I personally would work hard to educate my community about how to make the most of such an opportunity.

Gretchen Bishop  
130 Fieldcrest Drive  
Ridgefield CT 06877

March 9, 2010