

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

I, Wendy Madigan, of the Canton Energy Task Force, Canton, Connecticut, write in favor of raised H.B. 5465, An Act Concerning the Development of Green Jobs.

Section 1: I support the creation of a green jobs website that would be disseminate information on green jobs in the state of Connecticut.

Section 4: I support an advisory board that would establish and create a demand for green jobs. This board would also be responsible for guiding the Department of Higher Education in establishing training programs for students of the green jobs industry.

Section 5: I support the Property Assessed Clean Energy bonds program. It has gained national attention and has a proven track record in 15 states including California, New York and Vermont. I believe it will expand the number of energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs in the state of Connecticut.

Through PACE, energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations on residential, commercial and industrial buildings would be made affordable to customers by giving municipalities the ability to issue Property Assessed Clean Energy bonds. Property owners (both residential and commercial) would finance energy retrofits via an assessment on their property tax bill. The loan would then be payable over a period of time, up to 20 years. The energy savings from their property's energy improvements offsets repayment of the loan. PACE would eliminate the up front cost barrier, making it affordable to anyone who wishes to make an energy efficiency improvement that will lower his or her energy bill. Lower bills equal more money to filter back into the community.

The PACE proposal is a winning program costing the state and municipalities nothing, gaining the environment and economy everything.

I write in support of HB #5465 because I believe that by increasing energy efficiency and adding renewable energy, the state will save energy, money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This bill will help us become clean energy leaders by creating green jobs and transforming homes, businesses and facilities into models of energy efficiency and conservation. This in turn will spur on more green energy projects. I believe this bill will help us gain our energy independence. Passing this bill will help the state tackle its ever-growing energy consumption problem and show that the State of Connecticut is proactive about global warming.

I ask you to vote in favor of this bill. It will keep Connecticut's current green energy companies in business and expand our green jobs industry; in turn, it will help our overall economy.

Please vote in favor of H.B. 5465

Sincerely,  
Wendy Madigan  
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