



# CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

SHIRLEY BERGERT

872 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 258 WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226-258

TELEPHONE (860) 456-1761 EXT. 115 OR 1-800-413-7796 (CLIENT TOLL-FREE LINE)

FAX (860) 456-7420

E-MAIL SBERGERT@CONNLEGALESERVICES.ORG

SHIRLEY BERGERT

DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC BENEFITS TASK FORCE

ANNE LOUISE BLANCHARD

LITIGATION DIRECTOR

CATHERINE CUSHMAN

CHERYL DIANE FEUERMAN

BET GAILOR

JOELEN J. GATES

REBECCA LOOS

SAMUEL T.D. NEVES, JR.

ROYAL STARK

WENDY W. WANCHAK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CAROLE MASTERS

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY

LAUREL J. FREEMAN

PARALEGAL

THOMAS W. CRATTY, JR.

VOLUNTEER PARALEGAL

LUZ OSUBA

HEROILDA RIOS

LEGAL ASSISTANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

62 WASHINGTON STREET

MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

(860) 344-0447

THOMAS D. GOLDBERG

BOARD CHAIR

STEVEN D. EPPLER-EPSTEIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAW OFFICES

211 STATE STREET

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

16 MAIN STREET

NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

153 WILLIAMS STREET

NEW LONDON, CT 06320

20 SUMMER STREET

STAMFORD, CT 06901

85 CENTRAL AVENUE

WATERBURY, CT 06702

872 MAIN STREET

WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

SATELLITE OFFICES

5 COLONY STREET

MERIDEN, CT 06451

62 WASHINGTON STREET

MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

98 SOUTH MAIN STREET

SOUTH NORWALK, CT 06854

564 PROSPECT STREET

TORRINGTON, CT 06790

29 NAEK ROAD, SUITE 5A

ROCKVILLE, CT 06066

March 9, 2010 Energy and Technology Committee Hearing

Testimony of Shirley Bergert<sup>1</sup>

## RB 5467: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COORDINATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

**Recommended Action: Support**

**This proposal will result in coordination of the various conservation related programs in Connecticut to ensure they provide comprehensive all fuels assistance to consumers.**

**Currently Connecticut has the following major program "silos":**

- **CT Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) under the Energy Conservation Management Board (ECMB),** which advises/coordinates both public service electric and gas conservation programs (CGS §§16-245m and 16-32f). CEEF is currently administering federal stimulus funding to deliver conservation services associated with deliverable fuels. CEEF plans and their implementation are subject to DPUC approval.
- **Municipal Electric Conservation programs coordinated by CMEEC,** with advice provided by the ECMB (CGS §7-233y).
- **Fuel Oil Conservation Board,** not funded in this fiscal year (CGS § 16a-22f);
- **CT Clean Energy Fund,** providing renewable energy programs (CGS §§16-245n).
- **Low income energy assistance and conservation programs** administered by the CT Department of Social Services (CGS §16a-41a).

**This legislative proposal provides the following:**

- **Expansion of the ECMB to include representatives from the oil and propane industries;**

<sup>1</sup> 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); on the Low Income Energy Advisory Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-41b); as the low income representative on the Fuel Oil Conservation Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-22f); and on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU.



- Expansion of ECMB authority to encompass coordinated all fuel programs, providing advice, oversight and evaluation;
- Codification of collaboration between conservation and renewable programs to simplify consumer access to integrated services;
- Collaboration between DSS administered energy and weatherization assistance with other conservation assistance programs;
- Clear authorization of the various programs to accept federal funding;
- DPUC oversight of public service gas and electric conservation programs, and deliverable fuel programs;
- Consolidation of annual reports to the legislature to create one comprehensive report on conservation and renewable programs; and
- Coordination of websites and links for conservation and renewable programs, available rebates and tax benefits, to facilitate consumer access to these programs.

The development of conservation and renewable energy programs has proceeded in a piecemeal fashion in Connecticut. It is time to effectively coordinate these programs, some of which have received national recognition. This legislation will result in coordination, improving consumer access to programs that reduce energy bills and improve the environment.