

Testimony on Raised Senate Bill 203  
An Act Permitting Condominium Associations to Benefit From Clean Energy Fund  
Programs  
Energy and Technology Committee

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Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Senator Nardello, and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today on Bill Number 203: An Act Permitting Condominium Associations to Benefit From Clean Energy Fund Programs.

My name is Marika Stewart and I am Community Organizing Student, earning my Masters of Social Work at the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work. I speak to you today as graduate student, who eagerly anticipates becoming a first time home owner in the near future. I currently rent an apartment in Marlborough, CT; however following the completion of my Masters in a year I plan on purchasing a condominium as my first home. According to the US Census (2000), 35.1% of housing units in the state are multi-unit structures. This means that a significant portion of Connecticut's population lives in a condominium home, the majority of which are currently not energy efficient.

As the green movement for environmental impact awareness continues to grow, more people are beginning to look closely at how their actions impact the world around them. Living a green lifestyle is growing in popularity as families make changes to their purchasing and behavioral habits to reduce their negative impact on the environment. One accessible way to do so would be to live in an energy efficient home. A condominium complex which used clean, renewable energy would be highly attractive to prospective buyers. According to OSHA, energy efficient homes would also be financially advantageous to buyers. Their energy cost would decrease by an estimated 2 to 9 percent over a 10 year period. This would result in a savings of up to one thousand five hundred dollars off the average bill (CT Light and Power).

As a future home owner, I would like to know that I have the option of living in an energy efficient home within the state of Connecticut. It is for this reason that I would encourage the committee to pass Bill 203. It is important to open the Clean Energy Fund to condominium associations, in order to make energy efficient choices more accessible. Support of Bill 203, would not only enhance the quality of homeowner experiences within the state, but also demonstrate this committee's commitment to promoting Connecticut as an environmentally conscious state.

Thank you very much for your time.