

March 18, 2010

Co-Chair John Fonfara  
Co-Chair Vickie Nardello  
Senator Kevin Witkos  
Representative Sean Williams

Energy & Technology Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 463, AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCING OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.

My name is Bruce Deitch and I am the President of a fourth generation, family owned heating oil company by the name Kasden Fuel located in East Hartford that opened in 1910. We primarily sell heating oil and other petroleum products to residential and commercial accounts and also offer HVAC services to our customers. I am on the Independent Connecticut Petroleum Associations (ICPA) Board of Directors and a member of their Legislative Committee.

As a second generation owner of a local heating oil company we have experienced tremendous change. Only 35 years ago our residential customers use approximately 1,300 gallons per year to heat their home and today with the use of new technology the average consumer uses just over 800 per year.

These improvements are a direct result of the new heating system technology that is available. The major hurdle is getting consumer to purchase this equipment. If passed, S.B. 463 would be a tremendous asset in being able to sell this new equipment. Long term zero interest loans for the purchase of high efficiency heating equipment is a tremendous way trigger the decision that consumers have when they are considering upgrading their heating system

As an employer and tax payer this economy has placed tremendous pressure on companies like mine. We are faced every day with way to save money. This bill allows me and other businesses like mine to install new high efficiency heating equipment. What that means is JOBS! Incentivizing consumers to replace old inefficient equipment helps the environment, reduced costs to consumers and allows me to maintain the jobs I provide and potentially grow them.

We can not control the forces that drive the global price of energy, but we can control how much energy we use, and S.B. 463 accomplished that! This bill is a WIN – WIN – WIN – WIN. Jobs, environmental benefits, consumer savings and increased economic activity here in Connecticut.

We hear a lot about economic stimulus – S.B. 463 does exactly that. Many jobs will be saved and many more may be created with the type if incentive that this legislation provides homeowners and businesses.

I ask that the Energy & Technology Committee support S.B. 463, AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCING OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Sincerely,

*Bruce Deitch*

Bruce Deitch  
President