



March 22, 2010

Written Testimony Regarding SB 484, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S REVENUE PLAN.

I thank the legislature for rejecting the proposed raid of the ratepayer-supported CT Clean Energy Fund and CT Energy Efficiency Fund earlier this year. Now more than ever it is important to tell your leadership to keep these Funds out of the new budget. Forcing consumers to pay down the state deficit based on electricity use is a regressive and unfair tax. Furthermore, Connecticut will lose out on future federal stimulus funding for energy and it will undermine all our efforts to create new "green jobs."

My example in Cornwall is particularly applicable. In the past two years our town has rallied around the opportunities and funding presented by the CCEF and the CEEF.

Most recently we were recognized by Gov. Rell as one of eight Climate Change Leaders in the 4th Annual Awards Program of Governor's Steering Committee for the following accomplishments using CCEF and CEEF grants:

- * Success in signing up over 30% of the town's households for the CT Clean Energy Options program earning an 8 KWh solar array system for our school.
- * Events and presentations to promote greater understanding of energy and conservation, including a Phonathon for the Clean Energy Option program, presentations on Kilowatt Conservation, an Energy Information Booth for numerous town fairs, a Halloween Party, a Sign Up Venue at election events and farmers' markets, and a Solar Christmas Tree.
- * Presentations to surrounding towns to institute new Town Energy Committees and to help inspire those communities with innovative programs.
- * Middle School outreach to contribute solar energy curriculum, kits, poster art competition, and a field trip for 7th-8th graders to Talcott Mt. Environmental Center.
- * Creation of a library corner on energy (that includes, books, films, Kilowatt Meters to borrow and application information on incentive programs), a "Ride with a Friend" ride-share program, and a webpage on the town site.

Furthermore, our town's people have taken advantage of the solar rebate program adding panels to at least 6 homes and approximately 6 are pending. Currently our local solar company has enlarged hiring and training two local installers. Many contractors are reeducating themselves to be able to promote and provide green practices as well.

Most recently we were able to announce that Cornwall will qualify as an EPA Green Power Community: "The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund has awarded one additional kilowatt of solar PV to the town. This reward was earned because the town-wide support for clean energy, including residential commercial and municipal buildings, exceeds the 6 percent threshold established by the EPA. Cornwall will become the first town in CT to achieve this distinction and only the second town on the east coast. The solar PV system, now 9kW, is scheduled to be installed at the Cornwall Consolidated School in mid-July.

Cornwall is one of more than 90 towns throughout the state that is participating in the CCEF's Clean Energy Communities program. Cornwall has become a national leader in its unprecedented support for clean energy," said Bob Wall, director of energy market initiatives for CCEF. "Thanks to the passion and hard work of many residents, the town has demonstrated what it means to be a model sustainable community."

Our town understands that to use the programs ALL provided by CCEF and CEEF is to rebuild a sustainable future that does not rely on fossil fuel and instead develops healthier infrastructure for our children. Raiding these funds would not only undermine the good-faith of our community residents exhibit by making voluntary contributions to clean energy but would stop the progressive flow of economic development and cultural transformation.

I hope you do everything you can to keep these funds working on behalf of the CT Clean Energy Fund and CT Energy Efficiency Fund.

Sincerely,

Katherine Freygang
Cornwall Energy Task Force, Chair
PO Box 36, Cornwall CT 06753
860 672 6010 (h), 860 488 0204 (c)
kfreygang@aol.com