



**TESTIMONY
JENN HENNINGS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS (CHCC)
BEFORE THE
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
MARCH 22, 2010**

Re: SB-484 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S REVENUE PLAN

Good afternoon. My name is Jenn Jennings, Executive Director of the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.

CHCC opposes provisions in the Governor's Revenue Plan which will divert funds from the CT Clean Energy Fund and Energy Efficiency Funds and undermine Connecticut's efforts to encourage residents and businesses to use energy efficient products.

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund provides grants, rebates and loans to customers who install energy efficient products, such as solar thermal systems and geothermal heat pumps. The program is funded through a surcharge on electric ratepayers' monthly bill. The program has been very successful in promoting the development and use of energy efficient products to help residents and businesses control energy costs.

Unfortunately, programs such as the solar rebate program have been periodically suspended due to lack of funding. This is discouraging for consumers as well as contractors who have invested a lot of time and resources to gain expertise and market with new energy efficiency products and appliances.

The growth of green jobs in Connecticut has been a bright spot in this difficult economy. More and more consumers are requesting energy efficient products and appliances in their homes and businesses to reduce costs and help the environment. The energy efficiency programs have helped create and retain jobs in our industry.

We are concerned that diverting these funds will make Connecticut less competitive than other states that are investing in energy efficiency incentive programs. Maintaining our commitment cost effective energy efficiency is good for the economy and the environment.

Please **oppose** efforts to divert these funds from the program.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Jennings at CHCC, 22 Skyview Terrace, Manchester, CT 06040 or jjennings@chcca.net, Tel., 860-533-1163.