

Written Testimony of Sharon Vocke, Evergreen Energy LLC

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

March 4, 2010

Written Testimony **in support** of House Bill 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

My name is Sharon Vocke and I am speaking on House Bill 5362. Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue.

My husband and I started Evergreen Energy Renewables in 2005, before Inconvenient Truth, and before green was cool. My brother thought I was crazy to leave my reliable teaching job to install solar, wind and geothermal systems. However, we believe in the importance of renewables to our energy security, our health, and our economy. We put a 6kW system on our house and we love it. Although these systems weren't popular at that time, the state incentive paid for more than 50% of solar installations. Our \$46,000 system cost us about \$21,000.

Since that time, we've worked hard to grow our business. Our solar, wind, and geothermal systems all around the state are helping businesses, schools, and homeowners save money and live more sustainably. At 2:00 today my husband has a meeting to discuss a possible commercial job to install 25 kilowatts of solar modules. Without this bill, there are no incentives for this business owner to proceed with this project. However, if HB 5362 passes, not only will clean energy be generated; there will also be jobs created as well.

As a resident of Southington, I have been asked by our town's Energy Committee to let them know of any incentives for installing solar on municipal buildings. Many residents want to add solar to our two newly constructed schools and there are several other sites that would be ideal for solar as well. With your support of this bill, our town will be able to save money on energy costs while we inspire and teach our students.

There couldn't be a better way to create jobs, improve health, protect the environment and save money, than by ensuring that renewable energy is an important part of Connecticut's future. Thank you for supporting HB 5362.

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