

Written Testimony: Ron Audette from GM Industries of Tolland, CT
Before the CT General Assembly / Energy and Technology Commission

March 4th, 2010

Written testimony in support of House Bill 5362

"An act concerning renewable energy"

My name is Ronald Audette, and I am speaking on house bill 5362. I am representing GM Industries headquartered in Tolland with 12 employees.

Senator Fonfora, Representative Nardello, and members of the committee, Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue.

A good beginning to this brief testimony perhaps can start with the title to this house bill.

"An act concerning renewable energy".

Speaking not only for myself, but a number of people I come in contact with in the renewable energy arena, another title could easily be.

I am a PRODUCT, of the current economy, not a victim.

Please allow me to expand on that.

- 1). I recently became unemployed in April after holding down a job at a Not for Profit for 30 years.
- 2) I am 50 years old, my wife is working three jobs, and we have a son in Kindergarten. In other words, we have bills just like anyone else, and without the Renewable Energy Arena, we're looking unemployment square in the eye.
- 3). I was invited to learn the in's and out's of solar and renewable energy only a couple of months after being "restructured" out of a place I loved and served for over 30 years. The contractor paid for my schooling in Solar and I have met with numerous homeowners over the past half year conducting solar site reviews of their property and passing that into our design team.
- 4). Our owner has created no less than a dozen NEW JOBS in the start up Solar Division of GM Industries of Tolland. In other words, others would be possibly collecting unemployment as well, if it not for the programs and funds available in some of our states renewable energy areas.
- 5). Our owner not only is creating jobs but he is MANUFACTURING key components of

the end product right here in Tolland, thus reducing the end costs, and passing those savings onto the customer, rather than simply buying finished product and placing a mark up on that to the consumer in order to create a profit.

We copy no ones work and I have no doubt that within a year our "Start up" division will become the hunted as far as the competition wanting to replicate what we offer today's "Solar Shopper" that they do not presently offer.

Without the Solar Lease and funds made available to the homeowner willing to reduce their carbon footprint or take pro-active action against annual rising electrical rate hikes, many just would not be calling us to look into renewable energy.

While banks offer Equity Line of Credits, Home Equity Loans, or refinancing on their existing housing mortgages, suffice it to say that a good many of those homeowners have already exhausted any number of those avenues simply do to credit card restructuring, as the credit card industry clamps down on revolving debtors.

Generations that came before us worked hard and fought our wars, with many giving the ultimate sacrifice, their lives.

While we find ourselves today once again with wars to fight they exist not only on foreign soil but domestic. Alarminglly increasing costs for energy from fuel for our travel to electric for our homes and businesses is a war itself.

In summary we need not only the present support of what was made available in calendar year 2009, but we need elected officials to recognize the overall "value based" contribution this is making to the big picture and to the many, especially the generations to come after us.

We have passed on enough debt to these very same "Next Generations". Renewable Energy Programs are indeed one dynamic way to apologize to these very same generations to come.

Thank you.

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