

**Testimony
of
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**FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
March 22, 2010**

Submitted by Susan Giordano, President

In Opposition to

Raised S.B. 484 An Act Concerning the Governor's Revenue Plan

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and Members of the Committee, The Institute and Alternative Global Energy are in opposition to SB 484, An Act Concerning the Governor's Revenue Plan.

Good morning. My name is Susan Giordano. I am the President of Alternative Global Energy, Inc. (AGE), and the Institute of Environmental Management and Technology, Inc. (IEMT).

IEMT, our private occupational school located in Shelton has specialized for ten years in creating technical curriculum, teaching and finding jobs for the unemployed and underemployed in Connecticut. We have partnered with all of the workforce boards and many specialty groups in Connecticut creating curriculum, training and finding jobs for the unemployed and underemployed in the energy, environmental and safety fields. According to one of our workforce board partners who worked directly with EPA, our training and placement programs are the most successful training programs leading to job placement in the EPA program nationwide!

In today's economy where jobs are scarce, we are seeing more white and blue collar unemployed workers in our school seeking retraining and job opportunities and the "green" sector shows the most growth and perhaps the only growth (other than perhaps the nursing market, since we are living longer) for job attainment. Our newer training programs include the first weatherization laboratory in Connecticut, solar, photovoltaic, energy auditing, Infrared camera diagnosis and "green" retrofit construction. In the last six months, we have trained hundreds of unemployed and underemployed individuals and have worked with them successfully to find jobs and to increase their income in these "green" markets!

To that end my own company, Alternative Global Energy, Inc. an energy auditing and "green" construction firm has added 13 jobs since September of last year. Yes, that is correct. In 6 months I have added 13 new jobs to my own firm and have increased the "green" skills of hundreds of students to enable them to obtain gainful employment. These workers' jobs will be at risk if monies from this program are withdrawn.

A report presented by CL&P and UI to the Connecticut General Assembly, House Speaker's Working Group on Green Jobs on January 21, 2010 indicate that there are \$4 in electric system benefits for every \$1 invested in energy efficiency; \$774 M in future energy savings by means of 2008 program expenditures; 2.3 tons of CO2 NOT released in 2008; 23,202 participants equaling 211,282,289 lifetime kWh savings per house-hold in 2009.

A 2009 study conducted by The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund estimates that 4,544 direct jobs in the Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy sector and indirect jobs are estimated at 7,270 totaling 11,814 jobs that are dependent on this money. This number is expected to increase in the years to come. Examples of contractors are HVAC companies, lighting companies, oil dealers, home improvement and builders, energy auditors and insulation contractors.

The "green" market is the seed to growing multi-benefits- not just one- not just the end result of a job. A job fulfills the most basic needs of an individual. A job allows us to enjoy the basic necessities of life. It can allow for food, clothing and shelter. It also allows for self-esteem and self-respect and accomplishment and self fulfillment. But, not only does it do that.

A "green" job brings cost savings by reducing heat loss and energy savings in homes, businesses and industries. Any individual who has had a three hour energy check-up can attest that they have seen a reduction in their energy bill due to lighting by reducing the energy usage of their lighting by up to 75% due to the change out of their old "energy hog" light bulbs; and they have experienced a more comfortable home with less

SB 484
March 22, 2010
Page 3

heating losses because up to three hours of air sealing and duct sealing of their homes has occurred. These savings occur year after year. Not in just one year. There are real jobs and real dollar savings at stake here in a growth market that is sustainable. The pay back is significant!

We know that it is important to balance the budget and that it is a difficult job that faces this Committee. I ask you to think about the future job growth market in Connecticut and where else can a job create so many benefits as a "green" job in a declining economy?

Thank you again for your time and consideration.