

March 19, 2010

To: Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding

From: Cathy A. Weissmann

Subject: Bill #484

I believe the State of Connecticut has no right to take the money that I pay on my electric bill earmarked for the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) for energy conservation. Basically the government of the State of Connecticut is trying to get out of financial trouble by stealing taxpayers money. It was not intended for use by the General Fund.

CEEF works along with the Utilities to help businesses reduce their operating/energy costs. In these hard times these savings have kept businesses from going bankrupt. It also helps the State of Connecticut as many municipalities have reduced their electric usage through these conservation programs.

The company I work for is presenting the benefits of using the CEEF fund to small business owners to aid them in energy conservation. Without help from the fund most businesses could not afford to perform the energy upgrades. Last year our company helped approximately 300 businesses reduce their energy consumption.

Our company is deeply involved with energy conservation work and it would drastically affect our business if this fund was taken away. People might lose their jobs. This would affect the state in higher unemployment costs and sales taxes and income taxes lost. It would also cause an economic change to the vendors our company and employees use reducing their cash/revenue.

Taking the money from this fund would only be a temporary fix. Government would not have learned how to budget and spend the funds available to them. It might have them looking at what other money they could take from other dedicated funds.

Sincerely,

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