

**Testimony of  
Association of Energy Engineers<sup>®</sup>, Connecticut Chapter**

**Before the  
Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee**

**In Opposition to  
SB 484 An Act Concerning The Governor's Revenue Plan**

**March 22, 2010**

I thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony to the Finance Committee regarding the bill on securitization, SB 484 – An Act Concerning our Governor's Revenue Plan. My name is Dan Wheatley, President of the Connecticut Chapter Association of Energy Engineers, and on behalf of the many working energy professionals and the Connecticut clients we serve, I wish to convey deep concern over current or future legislative action that may compromise the status and integrity of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund.

It would be difficult to overstate the benefits this fund provides on a daily basis by supporting energy efficiency projects. Direct, measurable benefits include energy conservation, energy efficiency, pollution reduction, increased employment, stimulus of in-state commerce, and cost savings for businesses, manufacturers, institutions, and government facilities.

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) is a non-profit organization focused on intelligent generation, use, and conservation of traditional energy and renewable energy. Connecticut's several hundred AEE members are energy professionals, typically working with larger workforce teams in their respective organizations who are immersed in development and implementation energy projects on a daily basis. Most projects are supported by the fund. Based on a composite of the experiences of AEE members, we wish to state with emphasis the following points:

- The fund supports a multitude of ongoing in-state energy efficiency projects that deliver significant energy savings that are actual and measurable.
- All funded projects require Quality Assurance that insures projected savings will be realized and sustained, and that current engineering standards are met.
- All energy savings projects provide significant environmental benefits, in reducing pollution and carbon emissions resulting from reduced generating levels.

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- Since the funds originate from ratepayer surcharges, the fund is self-sustaining. Moreover, this surcharge is small enough to be virtually unnoticed, so that to the appearance of many facilities owners, the benefits seemingly 'appear from nowhere'.
- Every dollar that comes out of the fund results in several dollars of value in savings.
- Energy projects create and sustain employment.
- All energy savings projects require the purchase and use of labor and materials which generate state taxes.
- Efficiency and conservation in existing energy sources are the prerequisites for implementing renewable energy and achieving energy independence. The higher cost of renewable energy requires minimal waste, and ongoing cost reductions in existing energy sources provide capital for renewable energy implementation.
- In our current economy, most energy projects will not happen without co-funding. The energy fund reduces payback periods to affordable levels.

Connecticut government showed excellent foresight and judgment in the creation of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, and it continues to successfully serve its purpose. Among all current issues facing Connecticut and our nation concerning energy, resources, the economy and public policy, there is universal agreement in the value and benefit of energy conservation and efficiency among all interest groups.

Our traditional resources for energy generation are finite; we will someday rely on an energy supply that is undefined at this time. Achieving energy efficiency is the one strategy that can be said to be beneficial under any circumstance. The creation and maintenance of the fund and its associated policies represents government at its best, and we urge Connecticut lawmakers and to preserve and maintain them.

Sincerely,

**Dan Wheatley, President**  
**Association of Energy Engineers, Connecticut Chapter**