

TESTIMONY ON RAISED BILL 5225

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Chairman, Committee Members and Staff,

My name is Carol Savery-Frederick and I have been a member of PACE (PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY, INC) for a number of years. I have participated in the solar tours our organization puts together every year and have seen the growing enthusiasm and commitment of thousands who have taken a tour and seen what is possible with solar energy. When choosing the solar route to heat/cool our homes AND businesses and/or to heat our water, we are taking some very necessary and urgently needed steps to preserve this planet and our environment for future generations.

To quote Judi Friedman, Chairperson of PACE, "Beginning with solar hot water systems and passive solar homes, the solar movement has progressed in spite of political changes, poor economies and the advancement of polluting technologies. Over and over people have chosen to take the solar route...realizing that it is like money in the bank. The fuel is free!!!!"

Since 1985, our home has enjoyed the benefits of a solar hot water system. The emergence of the Clean Energy Fund and the Efficiency Fund has allowed many citizens to also embrace the solar option. However, without continued and increasing support for the solar movement and clean energy, it becomes more difficult for us to find companies to install and maintain our systems.

I urge you to oppose HB 5225 and to stop any raids of the CCEF ratepayer funds. If passed, this bill will prevent currently working solar installers who do not hold an E1 or E2 license. Critical green jobs will be lost. The goal of any legislative work should be to lessen the cost of alternative energy work - not to increase it! Connecticut has been a leader and needs to maintain its dedication to a cleaner and more affordable energy future for its residents. There are many thousands of us who are joining together in support of clean energy. We also need to support the businesses that make it possible AND affordable for us to install solar systems or other forms of clean energy. Please help us keep solar energy in Connecticut a growing and green business.

Our organization is also deeply opposed to any raid of the CT Clean Energy Fund or the CT Energy Efficiency Fund monies. These are ratepayer funds and needed to create jobs and help our economy.

Thank you,

Carol Savery-Frederick