

Written Testimony of Chris Bleuher from Schneider Electric, Inc.

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

March 8, 2011

Written Testimony concerning H.B 6544, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency

Good afternoon,

I currently work for an Energy Services Company (ESCO) called Schneider Electric, based out of Dallas, TX. I am here in support of House Bill 6544.

Over the past eight years I have been directly involved with promoting and selling energy performance contracting projects to municipalities and K12 schools in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Both New York and Massachusetts have legislation that supports energy performance contracting.

Having experienced first hand the differences in working between states with and without supporting legislation, I can say that H.B. 6544 would provide the following:

- A framework for municipal, educational and state decision makers to be educated about the concept
- Identify the unique stages of an energy performance contracting project
- Create guidelines and a formal process for moving through these stages
- Build the state energy infrastructure necessary for oversight of the process
- Most importantly, provide entities with a means of reducing their energy usage while at the same time making capital improvements

I have seen how performance contracting provides municipalities with critically needed building renovations in times of flat budgets and rising energy costs. The economic beauty of the concept is that these renovations are paid for from the savings created by a reduction in utility costs of the municipality's operating budget. There is no new capital dollars required to finance the project hence no impact to taxpayers.