



**State of Connecticut**  
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Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85<sup>th</sup>) in Support of HB 6544, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency

Before the Energy & Technology Committee

Public Hearing March 8, 2011

I write in strong support of Section 6 of this bill, which would institute energy performance contracting in state buildings. This proven approach relies on implementing the recommendations of an energy efficiency specialist who is paid for out of the savings in reduced energy consumption. Although commonly used in other states and in many municipalities to save 30% of energy costs, energy performance contracting has previously failed to take hold in Connecticut state government. Yes, there are a few outstanding examples of new energy efficient buildings at state university campuses. But performance contracting for the state's existing buildings has been a long-standing and ignored recommendation of Program Review and Investigations Committee and more recently the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes (CEAO) on which I served. Even my own Town of Wallingford has embraced energy performance contracting for our school system, as recommended by Wallingford's Energy Conservation Commission. It is ironic that many municipalities are moving faster than the state to improve their energy efficiency and reduce waste.

The CEAO, using research supplied by Program Review and Investigation staff, reported that energy costs for state buildings have jumped 60% over four years. Despite this negative trend, the state did not take advantage of the CT Clean Energy Fund or CT Energy Efficiency Fund to improve state building performance. In contrast, our northeast neighbors, New York and Massachusetts, took advantage of federal funds and are way

ahead of us in reducing their state government's energy waste and saving their taxpayers money.

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill require disclosure of a building's energy use pattern, which will provide important consumer and taxpayer information to compare buildings and provide a baseline from which to measure improvements in efficiency. In our town's Energy Conservation Commission, on which I serve, we have had to painstakingly assemble such data from agencies, which took months, in order to plan for our first energy performance contactor. This data needs to become readily available to allow us to measure our progress annually toward the most efficient building performance. Thank you for raising this important measure.