

Testimony of Energy Solutions, LLC  
**In Support of HB 6544, *An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency***

Before the Energy and Technology Committee  
March 8, 2011

Submitted by Robert Auer

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 6544, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency, on behalf of Energy Solutions, LLC. Energy Solutions is committed to helping commercial businesses understand energy conservation better through our buildings analysis, and reports. We audit the buildings, and make recommendations for improvements as part of the SBEA programs. We then use conservation funds to help offset the costs and provide a neat bundle of goods that we install to help make energy using systems more affordable.

Connecticut, has a great deal to gain from energy efficient building practices, and could use more funding to help more customers gain better efficiency. If we are to get serious we need to invest more dollars in a way that will help reduce global warming, and pollution, while help safe guarding the future from energy insecurity. This bill will help solve that. Sections 1 – 3 require the creation of an efficiency rating and labeling system for residential and commercial buildings, the assessment of buildings, and the disclosure of these ratings to potential buyers and renters. The benefits of this approach include:

- Buyers and renters can make well-informed decisions, choosing buildings with lower energy costs and higher resale value, and realtors can better serve their clients' interests
- Property owners are assured of a good return on investment, because their efficient buildings will likely command a high market price
- Commercial building owners can track the efficiency of their buildings over time, enabling them to continuously improve, and utilities can more effectively target programs to these large-scale customers
- Energy auditors will see their business opportunities expand and gain the security of knowing their services will be in demand long-term
- Contractor jobs will be created as demand for retrofit services increases, spurred by building owners who recognize efficiency as a force that increases their building's market value

Similar programs are working in Oregon and Washington State, and are being considered or implemented in other places like California, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

Section 8 establishes a low-interest loan fund that will help homeowners and business owners finance improvement projects. Such a program could adjust the rate of repayment to closely follow the cost savings from the improvement, so the owner's monthly payments don't go up. In addition, it could tie the loan repayment to the property, not to the current owner. If the current owner sells the property before the loan is repaid, the new owner—who is now reaping the benefits of a more efficient building—takes on the burden of

the loan. This dramatically lowers the risk to current building owners, because they know they won't be stuck with the balance of a loan if they sell early.

This bill will create business opportunities and secure jobs in the growing energy efficiency field, help meet the state's carbon reduction obligations, and help Connecticut citizens in all income strata save money. I urge you to support HB 6544, AAC Energy Efficiency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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