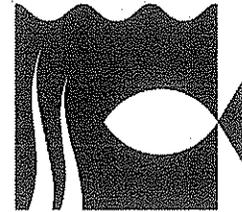


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



Save the Sound®
A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Finance, Revenue Bonding Committee
Public Hearing
March 21, 2011

Submitted by: Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

In Support Of:

**Raised Bill No. 1157, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESTORATION OF THE ENERGY
CONSERVATION AND LOAD MANAGEMENT FUND**

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is Connecticut's non-profit environmental advocate with over 5,700 members statewide. For over thirty years, CFE has fought to protect and preserve Connecticut's health and environment.

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance, Revenue Bonding Committee, Connecticut Fund for the Environment offers this testimony in Support of Raised Bill 1157, An Act Concerning the Restoration of the Conservation and Load Management Fund.

Last year's budget proposal anticipates diverting 35 percent of the Energy Efficiency fund income stream to securitize a bond issue beginning in 2012. This proposed raid on the energy efficiency fund would severely impact the state's efficiency programs, and curtail the growth of the green jobs in Connecticut. As CFE reads this bill, the intent is to reverse that proposed diversion of energy efficiency funds and restore efficiency funding to its full level.

For the following reasons, CFE urges you vote to approve the bill and restore the energy funds:

- Cutting the energy efficiency fund is exactly the wrong approach in a financial crisis. We must continue to make wise policy decisions and investments if we are to build a better, sustainable place to live & work.
- Connecticut's energy efficiency fund is proven to save money for ratepayers, support business growth, and create jobs.
- The state's two energy funds support at least 1,000 good jobs in Connecticut. If the programs lose funding, green businesses and these jobs may leave the state.
- The funds help pay for energy audits, and efficiency measures for homes, businesses, municipalities.
- In 2009, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ranked Connecticut's efficiency efforts the third-best in the nation. In 2010, Connecticut's ranking fell to number eight, largely as a result of the proposed fund raid. Connecticut must continue to support these programs to maintain our competitive advantage.
- Improving efficiency is also the most cost-effective way to meet our greenhouse gas reduction mandates. The efficiency fund has saved 355 kilowatts in a year, which in

terms of emissions is equivalent to preventing the burning of 164,000 lbs of coal, saving 101,000 acres of trees, or getting 48,865 cars off the road.

- This money is not state revenue: it comes from a surcharge on consumers' utility bills intended to support efficiency programs in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.