



**NORTHEAST ENERGY
EFFICIENCY COUNCIL**

A business association of the energy efficiency industry

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Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

Public Hearing

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**SB 1157- An Act Concerning the Restoration of the Energy Conservation & Load
Management Fund**

Good afternoon, Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee. The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter and I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify today and their leadership in introducing this bill. My name is Raquel Kennedy. I am a member of The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter (NEEC-CT), and a principal of Victory Energy Solutions. The NEEC CT Chapter represents mechanical and electrical supply companies, energy services companies, mechanical and electrical contractors, lighting heating and A/C control manufacturers, and engineering firms.

Victory Energy Solutions

Since 2009, Victory Energy Solutions, located in New Britain, has been a successful vendor to Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating in the residential Home Energy Solutions program and in the Commercial Program. Because of the diverse backgrounds of the three partners, we saw an opportunity to develop a multicultural firm that would provide greater employment and professional opportunities to minorities and to provide a greater access to the multicultural base of Utilities. Victory Energy Solutions has supported CEEF goals by growing our home performance and commercial energy management business while providing a safer, more energy efficient and comfortable in door living environment for the Companies' customers. Diversifying in the areas of home performance, we started our own insulation company, partnered with HVAC and asbestos abatement contractors and others and project managed deeper retrofit projects in the residential community to improve home performance. We also provide insulation, window replacement, weatherization and audit services to the Community Action community as well as the private market. In addition, we have begun to provide training in green technology. This has all been accomplished largely by the opportunity provided to us through Energy Conservation & Load Management Fund. Our small company created over 20 jobs in a year and half, purchased vehicles, equipment supplies from Connecticut vendors. We have rented office and warehouse space in New Britain and have promoted philanthropic efforts in CT. Many of our employees were under employed or unemployed when they came to our company. Our growing company has had an additional focus on developing urban area youth to learn about the benefits of the engineering, environmental, and alternative energy industries and have been identified as a training partner with Capital Workforce Partners, New Britain Housing Authority, and the Human Resources of New Britain in a HUD application for a New

Britain Training facility which will focus on providing green training opportunities to low and moderate income individuals.

We were one of the first vendors to use cause related marketing to promote the Home Energy Solutions Program, supporting non-profit organizations and spreading the word about the importance of home and commercial energy efficiency.

This has all been made possible because of the Energy Conservation & Load Management Fund.

I know you are all aware that:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation, especially in today's environment, are strategies that work and will continue to work for years to come. **The advantages of Energy Efficiency and Conservation** include:

- **Immediate impact on homes and businesses.** Did you know that after a 4 hour Home Energy Service for \$75 you could be saving \$400 and more on your yearly utility bills and that we make your indoor living environment healthier and more comfortable? How many of you have had the service in your homes? In 2009 348,538 households were served through the CEEF and 3,163 businesses were served. For every \$1 invested in energy efficiency the return is more than \$4 in savings.
- **Carbon emissions are eliminated** by replacing incandescent lamps replaced with Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL). The Conservation Fund in 2009 year saved 237 million annual kilowatt-hours which is equivalent to 55,632 acres of trees planted or taking 40,906 cars off the road. We give homeowners up to 24 CFL bulbs with their home energy service.
- **Saves our fossil fuels.** That same 15Watt CFL will eliminate either 550 pounds of coal or 1 barrel of oil from being burned.
- **Saves our Natural Resources.** One new Energy Star washer saves 7,000 gallons of water a year compared to the standard washer (still available by the way). This is more water then you will drink in your lifetime.
- **Economy**
Are you all aware that CEEF and the Energy Conservation & Load Management Fund is an important and much needed **economic driver** for our State? It has impacted our economy in significant ways including: Job Creation, saving homeowners money and increasing disposable income, and reducing the cost of doing business in CT.

In closing, The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council, Victory Energy Solution and our employees ask you to do 2 things: **Vigorously support SB 1157- An Act Concerning the Restoration of the Energy Conservation & Load Management Fund and encourage everyone you know to experience the Home Energy Solutions program and promote commercial energy efficiencies.**

Thank you for your time.

Raquel Kennedy