



**COMPETITIVE
RESOURCES**

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Scott Hastie
Regional Manager

Good Morning Representatives Daily and Widlitz and Members of the Finance Committee.

My name is Scott Hastie. I am the Regional Manager for a Yalesville, Connecticut based residential energy Services Company called Competitive Resources, Inc. The principals of our firm have been delivering a wide variety of efficiency programs on behalf of the customers of every electric and natural gas utility in our state since 1989. The sectors we have served include: limited income, residential, commercial, municipal and institutional.

For the last 14 years, we have focused our efforts on the improvement of residential dwellings for limited income and all other homeowners and renters. As I hope you are aware, the primary reason that we can deliver these services was the establishment of the Systems Benefit Charges (SBC) on customer's electric and gas bills. The programs that we, and many other contractors like us, work on are sponsored by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and administered by utility companies here in Connecticut.

Over the years, this small surcharge on customer's bills, which goes into the CEEF, has yielded big results in terms of economic benefits here in our state. The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) Connecticut Chapter indicates that for every dollar spent through the fund, four dollars are returned in energy savings and other economic benefits to Connecticut.

I am here today representing nearly 40 of my fellow employees. Much as they'd all like to be here, the majority of my staff are out in your constituent's homes as we speak; delivering the Home Energy Solutions service; helping them save energy and money. Our message to you is simple: please roll back the legislation passed in 2010 which will take or securitize 35% of the CEEF funding for the next 8 years.

I realize that you as legislators are faced with the task of making extremely difficult financial decisions in this session. However, I'd like to remind you that the funds we are talking about were never intended to be a tax. The SBC's purpose is to promote energy efficiency and incent the use of new efficient technologies and encourage better construction to reduce operating costs and air pollution for the people of Connecticut. One immediate result of this charge has been the development of many small businesses like ours as well as the continued employment of many other trades people who might otherwise be out of work due to these tough economic times.

It's inevitable that the confiscation of these dollars, or any reduction for that matter, will result in an immediate negative impact on the state's economy. Our goals of creating "green jobs", reducing costs for homeowners and businesses, gaining some degree of energy independence, and leaving a better environment for our children and grandchildren will fall by the wayside in favor of short term solutions to the budget problems. Please recommend that the CEEF budget be totally restored and that these important job creating (and preserving) dollars be utilized as originally intended.

Thank you.