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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair*

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
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Testimony In Favor of  
SB 1157 AAC the Restoration of the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Conservation and Load Management fund (Efficiency Fund) has been raided more than once in order to help balance the state budget. While we can understand the motivation here, such raids:

- violate the promise to ratepayers that the systems benefit charges will actually go towards their stated purpose
- look like a financial gimmick rather than sound financial budgeting practice
- actually damage the state's economy

It is this third point which is so important. Money from the Efficiency Fund pays for projects which are estimated to have a four-fold payback. They create jobs filled by Connecticut workers who do these installs and upgrades. Enhanced energy efficiency leads to savings on fuel purchases, and so helps consumers' and property owners' finances. Decreased fuel consumption lowers our contribution to global warming, helps to preserve our high environmental quality of life, and helps to minimize the need for additional electrical generation.

Securitizing money from these funds to address budget shortfalls is simply short-sighted and damaging to the economic health of the state.

We praise the committee for raising SB 1157 to restore the money to the Efficiency Fund. We strongly recommend passage of this bill, and ask the committee to ensure that the language of the bill is properly constructed so that it will lead to the desired outcome.