



October 20, 2011

Co-Chair Gary LeBeau
Co-Chair Jeffrey Berger
Senator Scott Frantz
Representative Fred Cammillo

Commerce Committee:

The Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association (ICPA) is submitting testimony in **support of removing language, in Public Act 11-80 section 132**, which established a \$500,000 cap on Home Energy Solutions (HES) funding for homes that heat with oil and other non-utility fuels.

The HES program provides homeowners with subsidized home energy audit intended to reduce energy consumption and save consumer money. The HES program is funded through a fee placed on ratepayer utility bills.

Section 132 of Public Act 11-80 institutes a \$500,000 cap on HES funds for non-utility heated homes. The law states that *"Each electric, gas or heating fuel customer, regardless of heating source, shall be assessed the same fees, charges, co-pays, or other similar terms to access any audits administered by the Home Energy Solutions program provided the costs of subsidizing such audits to ratepayers whose primary source of heat is not electricity or natural gas shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars per year."*

While ICPA supports equal treatment of home owners when it comes to the co-pays that consumer must pay to access the HES program, we are opposed to capping the amount of money that can be used by homes that heat with oil.

The current policy to cap oil heated homes to \$500,000 is discriminatory. Every oil heated home in the state pays into the HES, yet their access to the program is restricted. Over 50% of the home in Connecticut heat with oil. The \$500,000 cap has led to 100 layoffs to date, with more to come.

Oil heated home are ratepayers just like utility heated home are. The HES program should not discriminate against ratepayer regardless of the type of fuel they choose to heat their home. The \$500,000 cap has resulted in job loss, reduced energy audits and less energy conservation.

ICPA urges the repeal of the \$500,000 cap in Public Act 11-80 section 132 on nonutility heated homes, so that more than 100 contractors can go back to work saving consumer money by reducing energy costs.