



30 Arbor St. Suite 210
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 523-1699

<http://connecticutworkingfamilies.org/>

March 6, 2012

**To the Co-Chairs and members of the Commerce Committee
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 5340 AA Establishing an Energy-related Jobs Task Force**

Submitted by Lindsay Farrell, Executive Director

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the creation of a task force to create green jobs. This phrase has been tossed around for many years, but we are only scratching the surface in terms of realizing the potential in this industry.

Connecticut has a lot of old building stock, both residential and commercial, that would greatly benefit in from energy-efficiency retrofits. At the same time, we have skilled trades men and women who badly need to get back to work in the building construction industry. But unfortunately, the connection is not being adequately made between audit and retrofit programs and home and building owners so that we see the volume of jobs created, and buildings made energy-efficient, to meet the potential we have here. For some reason these programs cannot seem to get to scale here in Connecticut.

Working Families supports the creation of this task force, but we have a couple suggestions to make it accomplish the most possible.

First, give the task force a more defined mission: to find ways to reduce the barriers to scale and generate more demand for home and commercial buildings, and to do it in a cost-effective way with a workable financing method, such as on-bill repayment through energy savings. With a clear set of goals, the task force will be able to accomplish more, because it will have direction on which problems to solve and what models to look at.

Second, be sure to have all the stake-holding industries and groups represented. For these kinds of programs to grow to scale, we will need financing, contractors, the workforce, the state agencies administering it, and the building owners all ready to invest in it's success – let's be sure they are prepared to. A suggested list of groups to include:

- Consumer advocates
- Representation from organized labor
- Environmental advocates
- Financing experts
- Workforce development and training specialists
- Contractors and businesses the specialize in energy-efficiency
- Resprestatives form DEEP, CHIF (Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund) and Labor
- Community organizations

Thank you.