

Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OPPOSING

HB-5385, AAC ENERGY RETROFITS FOR CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND THE DISCLOSURE OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS BEFORE THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MARCH 8, 2012

2012

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The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures, and which represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut, submits the following comments:

CHCC strongly opposes HB-5385. While CHCC is generally supportive of energy efficiency measures, this legislation is fatally flawed and will create a burden on homeowners, commercial property owners, and HVAC contractors alike. Homeowners/property owners have the greatest control over a home or building's energy usage based on where they set their thermostat, whether they leave on the lights, and their choice of appliances, equipment, etc. Legislation such as HB-5385 interferes with consumer behavior and a marketplace that is already swiftly adapting various energy efficiency and improvement measures on its own, and will only result in increased costs, administrative nightmares, and various other unforeseen problems.

Sec. 1 of the bill will certainly raise the cost of selling a home. That is the last thing Connecticut's economy in general and the construction industry specifically needs right now. Section 2 of the bill will add administrative costs that will most certainly be passed on to the end user, the consumer. Section 3 of the bill, which imposes a myriad of confusing and burdensome energy requirements on commercial buildings, raises questions of privacy issues regarding the data collection requirements and their ultimate usage. Furthermore, this section of the bill does nothing to ease the burden of doing business in this state.

Finally, another major concern of CHCC is that this legislation is yet another attempt to validate in state statute and artificially expand into the marketplace the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program. Our experience with this program is that it is anti-competitive and blocks our members and other contractors from taking part in certain energy efficiency work because of the subsidized advantages HES contractors continue to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and CHCC urges rejection of the bill.