



**Energy and Technology Committee
Public Hearing
March 8, 2012**

Submitted by Lynn Taborsak, Climate Change Specialist
in support of

**HB 5385: An Act Concerning Energy Retrofits for Certain Buildings
and the Disclosure of the Energy Efficiency of Certain Buildings**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of over 1800 members and committed to effective public policy and the active involvement of citizens in their government. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

The League has consistently supported policies that reduce energy consumption, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources. Additionally, we support measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including cap and trade programs, carbon offsets, low-carbon fuels and green building standards.

HB 5385 is a time-of-sale disclosure bill about a buildings' energy use. It would allow buyers to know the actual energy costs of a residential building for the previous five years and renters to know the energy costs for the previous two years. For commercial buildings, a system of benchmarks and ratings will be developed based on the buildings energy use and made accessible to prospective buyers, lessees, or lenders in a DEEP on-line database. It will provide information about energy costs that consumers need to make informed comparisons between available properties.

Disclosure is not just good for consumers. Mandatory disclosure creates real competition among property owners and developers to achieve greater energy efficiency in their buildings. We all benefit from that competition with cleaner air and lower greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Energy efficiency itself is our most abundant source of energy. It can give us 30 to 40 percent more energy to grow our economy without an increase in energy consumption. It is also important to require disclosure and benchmarking for our public buildings and to evaluate the energy costs of future purchases or leases.

This bill will also help stimulate the "green jobs" economy that Connecticut wants to create with an increase in energy audits, energy management companies, insulation contractors, specialized "energy efficiency" home improvement contractors and "green" engineering and design firms. We anticipate that most retrofits will be done by in-state firms who hire Connecticut workers and purchase material and supplies within our borders.

Please vote yes on HB 5385.