



**NORTHEAST ENERGY
EFFICIENCY COUNCIL**

A business association of the energy efficiency industry

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

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

The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter (NEEC-CT), a business association of the energy industry, would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to submit testimony.

NEEC-CT supports **HB 5385, AAC Energy Retrofits for Certain Buildings and the Disclosure of the Energy Efficiency of Certain Buildings**. This legislation directs the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Consumer Protection to develop a program that would make information about a building's energy usage and establish efficiency ratings available to potential buyers and renters. The legislation requires energy audits as a condition of certain assistance from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

NEEC-CT sees this as an economic development bill for the energy efficiency companies in Connecticut. This legislation will allow commercial buildings a program to allow energy service companies (ESCOs) to market directly to building managers. This will allow ESCOs to grow their own businesses and save money for building owners. The legislation will allow the ESCO to conduct an energy audit of a commercial building and make recommendations for energy efficient improvements. The ESCO will then make those changes. The building owner does not pay for the changes. The ESCO and the building owner will then split the savings from the energy efficiency improvements for a specified time. After the specified time, the full cost savings go to the building owner. This model benefits the ESCO, the client business, the business's customers, and the general public.

Energy efficiency measures are documented and verified through independent evaluations and audits. There is a 4 to 1 return on energy efficiency investments. For every \$1 invested the return is more than \$4 in savings. These savings benefit everyone in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time. We urge you to support HB 5385.