



Testimony of the Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut (HPACT)
and Victory Energy Solutions before the Energy & Technology Committee

In Support of

HOUSE BILL 5385, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY RETROFITS
FOR CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND THE DISCLOSURE OF THE
ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS

Submitted by
Raquel Kennedy, Principal HPACT Board member

March 8, 2012

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Committee,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to comment on House Bill 5385, AAC Energy Retrofits for Certain Buildings and the Disclosure of the Energy Efficiency of Certain Buildings.

Victory Energy Solutions is a three year old Energy Management and Home Performance Company and an approved vendor for the Home Energy Solutions Program under the CT Energy Efficiency Fund and want to express our support for House Bill 5385. We began our company with three employees and now have over 24 individuals under our employ in the City of New Britain. Many of the people we hired were either unemployed or underemployed and come from the major urban centers. In conjunction with state and federal workforce development programs, there has been an investment of over \$100,000 in training our people.

We are also active members of the Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut and the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council. Victory Energy Solutions is a member of the Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut (HPACT) and serve as its Chair of Advocacy. HPACT is a collaborative voice for home performance professionals in the State and we provide an opportunity for collaboration among energy professionals, and promote awareness of the benefits of building performance. Before I continue, I would like to take a moment to thank you for facilitating the passage of PA-1180 last year. Your actions were pivotal in changing the paradigm of how our state's citizens, businesses, and government will integrate energy efficiency and clean energy opportunities into our daily lives and make Connecticut a leader in the nation once again. I also want you to know that as a small business owner, it is very challenging to take time away from the day to day requirements of running my business and I am here because I believe this bill is so important to Victory Energy Solutions, our industry and the citizens of Connecticut.

House Bill 5385 is an important and critical next step in continuing to effectuate a sustainable effort in promoting energy efficiency and improving the marketability, comfort and health and safety of our significant aging housing stock. By providing prospective homebuyers with information about the energy efficiency and performance of homes they are considering purchasing, they will have an opportunity to make an informed decision when investing in one of the most significant assets a consumer will ever own. We have worked with Prudential Connecticut Realty and other firms and their promotion of the existing Home Energy Solutions Program has provided their sellers with that energy edge in marketing their properties and providing their buyers with a great value added. After many years of neglect, Connecticut is finally once again promoting affordable housing. DECD and CHFA should be encouraged to include in their program protocol Energy Efficiency Fund programs such as Home Energy Solutions and the Multifamily Family program as a matter of policy. Reduced energy costs are a significant factor in housing affordability in the rental market and in home ownership. Home Energy Solutions, funded through the Energy Efficiency Fund is an award winning program and is readily available to provide the audit and energy saving opportunities to the consumer. This bill is a no-brainer!

Victory Energy Solutions is a growing company and your actions in support of this bill and its ultimate passage will significantly increase the demand for energy audits and energy efficiency improvements and have a positive effect on our ability to hire more workers. Residents who save on their energy bills can better afford their mortgage payments or have more disposable income to put invest back into the economy.

As a commercial energy management company and a member of NEEC, we support building benchmarking and mandatory building energy rating as a proven way to promote energy efficiency in commercial properties and make the business environment in Connecticut more competitive. This is already working in other states throughout the country and a necessary to our business climate

This is not time for Connecticut to be skeptical, fearful or timid while other states move ahead. Our company, our employees and our customers are asking you to lead by example and fully support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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